



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 117th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 168

WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2022

No. 190

Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable TINA SMITH, a Senator from the State of Minnesota.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

O God, who holds the wind in Your fist and wraps the ocean in your cloak, we thank You for defending all who come to You.

Lord, on this December 7, a date that has lived in infamy, we ask You to bless our military. Give our military people Your presence and peace.

Bless also our lawmakers. Give them the wisdom to meet the challenges of our time. May they not grow weary in their efforts to find common ground. Lord, provide them with the strengthening joy of Your spirit, that they may have courage for hard times and determination for challenging tasks.

We pray in Your strong Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, December 7, 2022.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable TINA SMITH, a Senator from the State of Minnesota, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,
President pro tempore.

Ms. SMITH thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report:

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Jeffery Paul Hopkins, of Ohio, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Ohio.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, yesterday evening, the Senate and House Armed Services Committee released its strong, bipartisan National Defense Authorization Act.

As Republicans have said for months, and I repeated yesterday, our servicemembers, commanders, and civilian leaders should not have had to wait until mid-December to gain certainty for a fiscal year that is already more

than 2 months over. We have to take our national defense military modernization, and defense industrial base as seriously as our rivals take theirs.

Fortunately, this strong, bipartisan NDAA is a huge step in that direction. The bill tees up a significant and badly needed increase in defense funding—\$45 billion above President Biden's insufficient request and roughly \$75 billion over last year's level. Once again, Congress agreed on a bipartisan basis that President Biden's defense budget request was anemic and insufficient.

This NDAA authorizes crucial projects like nuclear modernization. It directs critical investments in our defense industrial base so America can both defend ourselves and remain the arsenal of democracy for the world. It delivers for our servicemembers, their families, and our military installations and communities around the country.

Thanks to the leadership from our colleague Senator BLACKBURN, among others, this NDAA will repeal the President's military vaccine mandate—a policy which this Democratic administration had stubbornly clung to, even as it had clearly undermined readiness and hurt retention.

And just as Republicans insisted, just as our servicemembers deserve, this NDAA is not getting dragged down by unrelated liberal nonsense. Good, smart policies were kept in, and unrelated nonsense, like easier financing for illegal drugs, was kept out.

I am glad this Democratic-led Congress finally realized that defending America is a basic governing duty. It is not some Republican priority that Democrats can demand unrelated goodies to be wheedled into.

Neither party, let alone a sitting President's party, can ever have the mindset that they need to be goaded or bartered into supporting our troops. We made it clear we wouldn't be going down that road; our Democratic colleagues finally accepted it; and Senators REED and INHOFE did a great job landing the plane.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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Now, that same lesson must carry over into our subsequent conversations about government funding. Democrats must be ready to actually fund the national defense, which this bipartisan NDAA authorizes.

Just like on this bill, neither party has any standing to demand unrelated goodies in exchange for doing our job and funding defense. And let's hope this new acceptance of reality also helps shape President Biden's next defense budget request. We have yet to see a proposed budget from this administration that takes growing threats very seriously.

Why do bipartisan majorities in Congress keep having to force this Commander in Chief to adequately resource our Armed Forces?

Today is December 7, the anniversary of Pearl Harbor. No American wants us to ever receive another painful reminder like December 7 or September 11 of the painful price we pay when we let our guard down, soften our defenses, or diminish our worldwide presence.

This strong NDAA is one important step in keeping our guard up. But only one. We need to put it on the President's desk quickly and then stay equally serious on this subject.

TRIBUTE TO JAMES M. INHOFE

Madam President, now, on a related matter, the annual defense bill I just discussed will carry the name of one of our most senior and distinguished colleagues this year—the outstanding Armed Services Committee ranking member to whose career it will provide the perfect capstone.

Senator JIM INHOFE's often soft-spoken manner and unflinching humility are a pair of traits that have combined to produce one of the most effective legislators I have ever had the privilege of working with.

At the same time, over the same one career, JIM's name has come to me in both steady, solid, conservative constancy here at home and relentless energy as a globetrotter dealmaker. The mixture has left his home State, our entire Nation, and faraway lands all changed for the better.

The roots of JIM's conservative bonafides aren't hard to trace. In fact, the story of his entry into politics is a familiar one for millions of Americans.

There was honorable military service. There was hard work and success as a small businessman in his hometown of Tulsa. And then there were the inevitable headaches of having your can-do, entrepreneurial dreams bogged down in bureaucracy and regulation. JIM knew it shouldn't be that way, so he threw his own hat into the ring.

JIM's fashion for harnessing American energy was obvious pretty early on as well. Apparently, even while he was a student at the University of Colorado, JIM got together with some classmate and filed a claim on uranium deposits discovered nearby.

This is a man who seems to have been born with a built-in turboprop.

Our friend has an insatiable drive to discover and get things done. Short stints and bouncing around were how a busy young JIM INHOFE worked his way to a college degree—by way of nine different schools. It is also how this seasoned aviator circumnavigated the globe.

JIM's conservative convictions and his boundless, problem-solving energy might have seemed to be on a collision course; but, instead, they had proven the perfect harmony: from the State Capitol, where JIM earned the trust of his Oklahoma Senate colleagues and served in the thankless role of minority leader, to a gubernatorial campaign, during which he reportedly lost 57 pounds, to the 1994 Senate race, where our friend clawed his way back from 32 points down in the polls to win back a seat Republicans had only held 6 of the last 45 years, to the 5 more landslide reelections that followed.

You would be forgiven if you assumed that such a successful elected official might have made some major compromises along the way. But you don't become famous for flying planes upside down without a strong internal compass that stays fixed on true north.

Our friend knows that faith can move mountains. And JAMES "Mountain" INHOFE has himself been moved to incredible achievements by his love of God, love of country, and love of neighbor.

Don't get me wrong. JIM knows how to twist the screws to get things done: like landing generational investments in transportation infrastructure across Oklahoma and the heartland; or protecting American energy dominance, by pioneering and then protecting the new technologies and methods that have ushered in a whole new era of prosperity and independence for our country; or strengthening and modernizing our Armed Forces by leading the must-pass NDAA across the finish line.

JIM's done it all. But in a city where a lot of people treat friendships and relationships as means to desired ends, JIM has always viewed genuine relationships as noble ends in themselves. Just take it from our Democratic colleague from Rhode Island. Senator WHITEHOUSE once had to admit that JIM simultaneously was his "worst foe" and his "key ally"; or consider the many years JIM has devoted to deep partnerships with leaders in Africa. By all accounts, JIM's engagement began not with lobbying a particular issue or advancing a particular administration's priorities. Our friend has never been anyone's tool or puppet. JIM formed deep, genuine, personal bonds with fellow legislators and leaders in Africa just because he felt drawn to do so.

But as always happens with JIM, where relationships started, big results followed. JIM's trusted status as a senior statesman and stable counselor had Secretaries of State, Secretaries of Defense, and Ambassadors seeking his sage advice.

Just a few years ago, as I understand it, JIM was called upon to help ease an extremely tense and acrimonious political standoff between rival leaders in Kenya. Of course, he had known both men for years. And when the opportunity arose during the country's National Prayer Breakfast, JIM took a moment of personal privilege after praying an invocation and got the two men to literally hug each other in front of the cameras and their countrymen. It made international news.

So you get the picture: Relationships matter. But with JIM, two relationships matter most of all: the one with his God and the one with his beloved Kay.

JIM and Kay have been married for 63 years. And anyone who has spent any time around JIM knows what happens when his beloved bride calls him up. It doesn't matter if you are the President of Kenya or the President of the United States, your conversation is politely put on hold. The woman JIM calls "his rock" always comes first.

Over the last half century, JIM INHOFE's devotion to his country, his fellow Oklahomans, and his conservative principles have produced a mountain of a legacy. But I know his most cherished peak is his and Kay's mutual love and devotion and the legacy that relationship has produced; namely, Perry, Katy, Molly, and Jim, who have in turn grown the Inhofe clan by, I believe, 16 grandchildren.

Our dear friend has given generously to his country. He has more than earned some extra time with those he loves most. So JIM, thank you. Thank you for your exemplary service.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore (Mr. LUJÁN). The majority whip.

UKRAINE

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, it has been nearly 10 months—10 months since that cold, dark morning when I was in the departure lounge at the main airport in Vilnius, Lithuania, with my colleague Senator CHRIS COONS. We watched on television as Russia attempted to seize another sovereign country in the heart of Europe. I will never forget those early scenes of Putin's horror unleashed on Ukraine.

My friends in Lithuania, who remember Soviet oppression all too well, had warned of Russia's potential strike again in Ukraine, in Europe, and beyond.

Years earlier, I had seen firsthand the seizure of Georgian land by the Russian military in 2008. In 2014, my friend and fellow colleague the late Senator John McCain and I, with a group of Senators, paid tribute to those slain in Kyiv's Maidan Square just as Russia had seized Crimea and was looking to forcibly take other areas of eastern Ukraine.

But Putin and his henchmen failed miserably at understanding Ukraine and understanding their resolve to halt him and his brutality. His initial ploy to quickly topple Ukraine's democratic

government and replace it with a puppet failed immediately. And other Russian military advances in eastern and southern Ukraine have been rolled back time and again.

In fact, Ukraine's military has reclaimed hundreds of villages and more than a thousand square miles of territory—good for them. Quite simply, despite the horrific violence unleashed by Putin, the Ukrainian people have prevailed. Their courage and their sacrifice is inspiring.

And the world has rallied to Ukraine's side, leaving Russia isolated—should be embarrassed—and in retreat of Putin's folly.

Yesterday, I met with our Ambassador to the United Nations, Linda Thomas Greenfield. We are lucky to have her. She is truly a skillful, experienced, and talented person.

She reminded me earlier this year, more than 140 U.N. member states voted overwhelmingly in support of a resolution that deplored in the strongest terms Putin's aggression.

It also affirmed the international community's commitment to the sovereignty, independence, unity, and territorial integrity of Ukraine.

Only five Nations dissented—they are the world's worst dictatorships—aligning with Putin to vote against the measure at the United Nations. A reminder that Vladimir Putin has utterly failed in pursuing his twisted nostalgia for Soviet tyranny.

And the NATO alliance has held firm in its strong support to Ukraine—this administration included—providing weapons to help them defend their nation. More than 34 other nations joined us. The United States and several key allies have imposed sanctions on nearly 8,400 Russian oligarchs and their families, 1,500 Russian entities, and 100 Russian vessels. The nations of the free world understand that Ukraine is, in fact, our common frontline in the battle for freedom in this world.

President Biden, too, with Secretaries Blinken and Austin, has rallied unprecedented international support. Other nations clearly understand what is at stake. The struggle for the rule of law over the rule of chaos and brute force, that is what is at stake.

And now it is time for the United States and the rest of the free world to continue to lift up our support.

It can be easy to get impatient, even despair, as Ukraine faces continued Russian bombardment of civilian targets and, in many cases, war crimes specifically designed to terrorize civilian populations.

I would like to show you a recent photo. It shows the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights, Volker Turk. He is speaking to defenders in Kyiv in an underground shelter during a recent air strike.

Another of a child here hauntingly looking at a damaged school. He is dressed for school. The building has been destroyed by Vladimir Putin.

Ukrainian civil servants are working around the clock to restore access to

electricity, water, and heat to allow hospitals and schools to function.

The continued unified support and military assistance of NATO is invaluable, and this Congress has been unified in providing this aid.

Make no mistake, Russia is losing the war in Ukraine. Its leaders now are trying to break the will of the Ukrainian people.

As an amateur student of history, I know that the winter has often been a defense for the people of Russia. Napoleon's advance of his troops on Moscow was stymied by the coldest winter imaginable. They said it was so cold that the birds fell from the sky. And we remember well what the Nazis faced when they invaded Russia in a bitter winter that was also a defense for the Russian people.

Vladimir Putin has turned the tables and, sadly, is using winter as a weapon of war against common Ukrainian people—mothers, fathers, and children.

I want to conclude by showing this one photo because it tells such a story. These are members of the Ukrainian National Philharmonic orchestra, performing in a darkened theater in Kyiv on Tuesday, lit only by battery-powered lanterns. It says it all about the resilience of the Ukrainian people.

Russia will fail.

Slava Ukraini.

DIETARY SUPPLEMENT LISTING ACT

Mr. President, Congress has some big decisions to make in just 2 or 3 weeks. The continuing resolution which funds our government is about to expire. One of those decisions will be whether to include important measures to ensure the Food and Drug Administration fulfills its public health mission.

You see, when we passed the last CR in September, we reauthorized the user fees that are necessary to fund this critical Agency. However, the package did not include commonsense changes in the law—bipartisan changes—that really would make FDA a more effective Agency, so we continue to pursue them this month.

One of those measures was the Dietary Supplement Listing Act, a bipartisan bill that Senator BRAUN of Indiana and I introduced in April.

More than 75 percent of people living in America, myself included—my family too—use a dietary supplement such as a vitamin or a mineral. However, many assume, when reaching for that supplement bottle in the medicine cabinet, that the Food and Drug Administration of the U.S. Government knows what is in that bottle and knows that it is for sale. That is not always the case.

Dietary supplement companies are not required to disclose to the Food and Drug Administration the ingredients in their products. Let me repeat that. Dietary supplement companies are not required by the Food and Drug Administration to disclose the ingredients in their products. They aren't even required to register that their products are for sale in the United States. An obvious problem exists.

How can the FDA really regulate this market for the safety of American consumers when it doesn't know what is on the market? It can't. It is impossible. So the legislation I have with Republican Senator BRAUN would require supplement companies to tell the FDA what products they put on the shelf and what is in them—just that basic. It is a simple fix that would improve the safety of the supplement market, and it would basically enhance quality companies selling quality dietary supplements. Others might be penalized by this; good companies would not.

I am glad this legislation received an endorsement from the Council for Responsible Nutrition, one of the largest supplement trade associations in our Nation. They are speaking for the good guys.

I want to emphasize that this is not a partisan idea. Polls show that 9 out of 10 Americans believe that manufacturers should be required to list their products and their ingredients. Ninety percent of Americans believe it.

In October, Scott Gottlieb and Mark McClellan, two Republican FDA Commissioners under Republican administrations, wrote that our legislation represents “a once-in-a-generation reform.” They concluded their article and said:

Congress should seize this opportunity to achieve long-awaited reforms that modernize FDA's regulation, promote innovation, and provide consumers greater assurance that the products they use are safe and reliable.

I understand that some oppose the inclusion of my bipartisan legislation in the yearend package. I am willing to work with any of them to overcome their resistance or to take their suggestions very seriously, but let's not move this package to fund the FDA and miss this opportunity. Consumers have waited long enough. The FDA needs to know what supplements are on the market and what their ingredients are to protect consumers. That is a bare minimum.

IMMIGRATION

Mr. President, yesterday—the day before yesterday, it was reported that two of our colleagues, Senators SINEMA and TILLIS, are working together on a potential immigration package. Although I want to know more details about what they are considering, I want to thank them for showing this kind of initiative on this important issue.

I believe we must pass immigration reform legislation before the end of the year, and the Members of the Senate shouldn't leave for home for the holidays until we take a vote to reform our broken immigration system.

Now, I know some people at home may be wondering why. What is the urgency? Why do it now? Well, we, first, may have an opportunity, and I hope we do, but it could be the last opportunity for a long time.

It has been more than 35 years since Congress has enacted a bill to reform our immigration system. With all of

the attention paid on the issue of immigration and our borders, it is hard to imagine how a Congress can be critical of the fact that the situation has deteriorated and not take action for 35 years. That is shameful.

Our failure to act on immigration hurts everyone, from hospitals in my State of Illinois struggling to find doctors and nurses, to asylum seekers fleeing violence and oppression.

There is one group of people in particular who have been left behind—Dreamers, these young people who are American in every way except for the paperwork. We all know Dreamers who have made a difference in our States.

They are young people who were brought to the United States by their parents, grew up here, thought they had a future here, but find they are undocumented. Many of them were brought here as babies, and they grew up alongside our own kids and pledged allegiance to the same American flag in their classrooms every morning.

A few weeks ago, I had a chance to welcome some of these Dreamers to Washington. As always, I was amazed by these young people, and above all, I was amazed by their passion to give back to the only home they have ever known—the United States of America.

One of these—and I want to show you a photo—is Eddie Rivera. He is a freshman at Dominican University in my home State of Illinois. He is studying to become a nurse.

Over the years, I have come to the floor of the Senate to tell the stories of people just like Eddie to show what is at stake when we consider the Dream Act. Eddie's story is the 131st Dreamer story I have told on the Senate floor.

You see, Eddie's family is originally from Honduras, and back there, his mother was an attorney. Now, while you think that is a stable profession, in Honduras, it was actually a liability. She received death threats because of her work, and it was out of fear for her young son's life that she sought refuge in America.

Eddie's family moved a lot when he was growing up. They struggled to get by, but they came to rely on one another for support. When his grandmother was diagnosed with dementia, Eddie and his mom became her full-time caregivers. He would sit by his grandmother's side day by day, feeding her, praying for her, holding her hand.

Sadly, his grandmother passed away in December 2019. But it was this personal life experience caring for his grandmother that inspired Eddie to pursue a career in medicine and nursing. So when the COVID pandemic hit in 2020, he answered the call for duty. He was hired to assist the nursing staff in a COVID unit of a hospital in North Carolina. In this role, he tried to provide the same loving care to his patients that he once provided to his grandmother.

In the future, it is Eddie's hope that he can obtain his nursing degree and work at a retirement home, one where

people can "spend the rest of their lives living with dignity in a loving community who will respect them and appreciate them for all of the contributions they have made to society."

So ask yourself a very basic question, which every Senator should ask: Would America be better if Eddie Rivera were deported to Honduras, a country he barely remembers, or would our Nation be better to have Eddie here among our ranks—the ranks of healthcare professionals who make such a difference in their lives?

What about the more than 200,000 DACA recipients who also work on the frontlines of the pandemic—doctors, nurse, paramedics? Would we truly be better without them? Of course not. We need Dreamers like Eddie, and we need to act on their behalf this month.

In October, the Fifth Circuit returned a case to the lower court to determine whether DACA, which has protected 800,000 Dreamers since 2012, will remain the law of the land. So unless Congress acts in the next few days to protect DACA recipients, this program could end even as soon as next year.

What does that mean for those 800,000 currently protected by DACA? Two things: They are subject to deportation at any moment, and they no longer have the legal right to work in the hospitals and clinics and businesses across America. If that happens, an average of 1,000 DACA recipients would lose their jobs each week in healthcare, education, and other sectors of our economy where we expect serious shortages.

Look, I am under no illusions about what it takes to pass an immigration package in a matter of 2 weeks or a few days. I know many of our Republican colleagues have their own priorities, and I am willing to sit down and make sensible compromises to bring order to our border. But we need to move, we need to act, because, as I mentioned, this could be the last chance in a long time.

The incoming Republican House majority has already declared that they will not allow a vote on any immigration measure during the next Congress. It will be the same dynamic we saw in 2013 when we passed an immigration bill here in the Senate, only to see it die in the House. Let's not repeat the same mistake.

To my Republican colleagues, I say this: If you care about improving border security or helping address worker shortages, this is our last chance to do it. Let's give every Dreamer in this country the peace of mind they deserve heading into the holiday season, and let's prove to the American people that we are capable of making tough decisions when the situation demands it.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The minority whip.

ESG REGULATIONS

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, when it comes to the actions of a party or a Presidential administration, legisla-

tion sometimes grabs the lion's share of the attention. But it is equally important to pay attention to what a Presidential administration does with its regulatory power, and the Biden administration has been characterized by a lot of deeply troubling regulations.

The so-called Inflation Reduction Act may be Democrats' most prominent Green New Deal effort, but the Biden administration's radical environmental agenda doesn't stop there. The President has also been using regulations to push through Democrats' Green New Deal fantasies, and these ill-considered, overreaching regulations could have serious consequences.

Later today, I will be sending a letter to the President about the attempts to use financial and securities regulators, like the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Federal Reserve, to push through environmental, social, and governance—or what are referred to as ESG—regulations that seek to choke off investment to essential industries like oil and natural gas and American farms and ranches. Notable among these is the Securities and Exchange Commission's proposed climate disclosure rule, which would require publicly traded companies to disclose information not only about their own emissions but also about the greenhouse gas emissions of their suppliers and even their customers. It would also require companies to determine the effects of climate-related risks on each line item of their consolidated financial statements.

Well, to start off with, this rule is obviously unworkable. Companies have zero control over the emissions of their suppliers and customers and little to no ability to accurately gauge those emissions. But the most serious aspect of this proposed rule is the fact that it represents a clear effort to coerce companies to sever ties with certain industries—notably, of course, the conventional energy industry, but also with other industries like agriculture.

It is hardly the only regulatory action of its kind proposed by the Biden administration. The Department of Labor just finalized a rule that would in practice require pension fiduciaries to consider climate change and ESG factors when making investment decisions, irrespective of their pecuniary relevance.

The Federal Reserve, which I believe has zero business inserting itself into debates over climate policy, recently established a pilot program to analyze climate-related financial risks for the Nation's largest banks, something that clearly—clearly—exceeds the Fed's statutory authority.

Similarly, the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, and the Fed have issued draft principles for large banks on "climate-related financial risk management."

And the list goes on.

Private companies, of course, have the right to consider whatever factors

they want when determining what companies they do business with and where they will invest, but the Federal Government should not be making those decisions for them.

The President and his cronies and the far-left environmental movement may like the idea of choking off investment to the fossil fuel industry and other industries to hasten the arrival of their fantasy Green New Deal future, but reducing and limiting investment in conventional energy and other essential industries is likely to create a nightmare for American families and American businesses.

I am, and have long been, a strong supporter of alternative energy, but the fact of the matter is, we are still a long way from being able to rely exclusively on alternative energy. The technology that would enable us to rely solely on green energy simply doesn't exist yet, and pretending that we can rely exclusively on alternative energy isn't going to change the reality, which is that we still need oil and natural gas and will continue to need them for the foreseeable future.

Choking off investment to the conventional energy industry isn't going to bring about the Green New Deal future, but it is going to reduce essential energy supplies, and that, in turn, is going to increase energy prices. It is going to increase energy prices for American families, and it is going to increase energy prices for American businesses.

If Democrats succeed in reducing investment in oil and natural gas, we could be looking at a very serious reduction in our supply of conventional energy and correspondingly serious price hikes.

There is reason to be concerned that Democrats aren't just interested in choking off investment in oil and natural gas but in agriculture, as well, because of natural livestock emissions and farming inputs like fertilizer. The National Credit Union Administration published a since-rescinded strategic plan that seemed to recommend that credit unions reduce their membership and loan offerings to farming communities. And South Dakota banks and credit unions have repeatedly—repeatedly—expressed their concerns to my office that the President's far-reaching ESG agenda could ultimately damage their ability to extend capital to their farm and ranch customers.

Should investment in agriculture also drop off, we could be looking not only at higher energy prices but at higher food prices as well and possibly actual food supply issues. Between higher energy prices and higher food prices, the kind of financial hardship that Americans have been experiencing during our current inflation crisis could become a fixture for the long term.

Democrats like to think of themselves as the party of the little guy, but the truth is, they have become the party of extreme special interests, and

the little guy often ends up getting sacrificed as a result. Since President Biden and Democrats took office 2 years ago, ordinary Americans have faced almost nonstop financial challenges thanks to the inflation crisis that Democrats helped to create with their massive American Rescue Plan spending bill. If the President's ESG agenda continues unchecked, that diminished prosperity could last indefinitely.

In the letter that I am sending to the President later today, I am urging his administration to consider the real-world effects of rules and regulations on ordinary families and American businesses, and to refrain from regulatory actions that would drive up prices even further. I hope that the President will listen, but if past is prologue, then I am worried that we are looking at 2 more years of extreme Democratic policies and 2 more years of economic suffering for the American people.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

TWITTER AND THE 2020 ELECTION

Mr. GRASSLEY. Last Friday, Elon Musk released documents and very good information relating to Twitter's interference in the 2020 Presidential election by censoring the New York Post Hunter Biden reporting. Just yesterday, Musk reportedly fired Twitter's general counsel, Jim Baker, for his involvement in the censorship scandal. Baker, you might remember, was general counsel at the FBI and was involved in the Crossfire Hurricane investigation.

You can't make up these stories.

Musk also released information that showed that the Biden campaign was involved in the censorship efforts. The information shows that Twitter employees knew—actually knew—that they had no legitimate basis to censor the Hunter Biden reporting but proceeded to do it anyway. Twitter also removed links and blocked the reporting from being shared by direct messaging on its platform. Folks that fought the good fight against Twitter's extraordinary censorship were also locked out of their accounts.

These documents that Musk made public made very clear that Twitter was effectively an arm of the Democratic Party and the Biden campaign. Twitter essentially gave the Biden campaign a massive in-kind campaign contribution.

What Twitter and other big tech companies did in 2020 with respect to censorship was as much an outrage then as it is today. Simply put, what they did is expected of communist China, not the United States of America.

Reports also indicate that the FBI warned Twitter during weekly meetings before the 2020 election that hack-and-leak operations involving Hunter Biden material were likely to occur in October of 2020. Well, the FBI had the

Hunter Biden laptop since December of 2019, almost a year before the election.

Information on it has been verified by liberal news outlets. It took a long time for those liberal news outlets to admit that this wasn't Russian disinformation.

So, then, I ask this question: Did the FBI do the same or did they fail to do their due diligence?

I find the FBI's action in advance of the 2020 election to be more than suspicious. It is too bad that just now, 2 years later, we get this information from a person that bought Twitter and wants the public to know what actually went on.

Now, some of you remember that Senator JOHNSON and I released our first report on the Biden family connections to communist China on September 23, 6 weeks before the 2020 election. And you know, if you remember, at that time it was swept up into the Hunter Biden censorship fiasco not long after. So, too, was our second report, which we released on November 18, 2020.

But we were more than just censored. Before we even made the first report public, the liberal media and even some of our Democratic colleagues tried to smear us with false claims that our work was connected to you know what—Russian disinformation. My Senate colleagues went into full Joe Biden protection mode.

So here we have four elements to this fact pattern that ought to shake up every Member of the U.S. Senate and shake them up to their very core. No. 1, the FBI got their hands on Twitter via these weekly briefings—the weekly briefings that I have already expressed existed—and planted seeds regarding future hacked material relating to Hunter Biden. No. 2, the FBI improperly labeled information it possessed on Hunter Biden as you know what—disinformation. No. 3, the FBI provided an unnecessary August 2020 briefing to me and Senator JOHNSON that was used by some Democrats and by the liberal media to try to undermine our investigation that started well before the 2020 election. No. 4, the liberal media repeatedly and falsely labeled my and Senator JOHNSON's investigation as you know what—Russia disinformation.

Now, all of that happened in the runup to the 2020 Presidential election.

In the long run, these false allegations and bad faith efforts against me and Senator JOHNSON didn't work, as everybody knows now but didn't know at the time.

For example, in this Congress, Senator JOHNSON and I gave floor speeches on these dates in 2022: March 28, March 29, and April 5. Through those speeches, we introduced bank records connecting Hunter and James Biden to the Chinese communist regime. We sent hundreds of pages of bank records to U.S. Attorney Weiss on October 26 of this year, showing those very same connections—the same connections that Johnson and

I made in our 2020 report. These are authentic bank records. They aren't Russian disinformation.

President Biden still owes the American people answers about his connections to Hunter and James Biden's business deals and arrangements. He owes the American people an explanation as to how much he knew about their businesses and personal relationships with communist China.

On October 13 of this year, I wrote to the FBI telling them that I know it possesses documents that indicate Joe Biden was aware of Hunter Biden's business arrangements and may have been involved in some.

In conclusion, since Senator JOHNSON and I began our Biden investigation August 2019—now, remember, 14 months before the 2020 election—now, after all that, our work has been substantiated. Big Tech censorship may have succeeded in the short term; however, the truth eventually sees the light of day. And I thank the new Twitter owner for his transparency. Accountability should follow.

NOMINATION OF ROBERT P. STORCH

Mr. President, on another short point I want to make, I want to congratulate our Senate colleagues on confirming Rob Storch to be the new Department of Defense inspector general. This happened last week. The DOD Office of Inspector General has been without a Senate-confirmed IG for almost 7 years, and we all know that is far too long.

Inspectors general play a key role in watchdogging the executive branch. They act as force multipliers for Congress through our constitutional responsibility of congressional oversight.

Inspectors general must hold government bureaucrats accountable with hard-hitting findings and recommendations. They must remain on the attack to root out waste, fraud, and abuse. The Department of Defense has an annual budget of over \$700 billion. It is high time that we have an IG confirmed that is accountable to Congress to watchdog this money.

The Department of Defense inspector general must now hit the ground running in conducting effective and efficient oversight over the waste, fraud, and abuse that happens at the Department of Defense.

I, along with my colleagues, expect the Department of Defense inspector general to be an inspector general who has teeth, unafraid to identify wrongdoing. And we will expect him to call out those who seek to get rich off the backs of hard-working American taxpayers as well as those who put our Nation at risk.

I expect Mr. Storch to be that watchdog. I also expect him to work with Congress to conduct oversight in areas of congressional interest and be responsive to requests for information that any Member of Congress seeks.

Transparency is key, and being responsive and accountable to Congress will be crucial to his success. I look

forward to working with Mr. Storch in his new role as Department of Defense IG.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. BROWN. I ask unanimous consent that I complete my remarks—I think they will be concluded by 11:30—but that I be allowed to go a minute or two over before the rollcall.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

REMEMBERING O'DELL OWENS

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Dr. O'Dell Owens, a champion of public health and public education in Cincinnati whom we lost last month. He was a longtime friend, longtime activist, longtime Ohioan, a public servant, and a trailblazer.

Dr. Owens' story and his unwavering dedication to the public good serves as an example for all us in Southwest Ohio, throughout Ohio, throughout the Midwest, and throughout the country. So much of his work was aimed at empowering young people of color and encouraging them to recognize their potential by staying in school and attending college.

He often shared a memory from his year as a ninth grader. A college counselor said he was "too poor and too dumb to go to college." Imagine a counselor saying that. Dr. Owens proved that counselor and everyone who didn't believe in him—he proved them wrong. He graduated from college; he got a masters and a medical degree from Yale University. He completed his fellowship at Harvard Medical School.

After gathering degrees and credentials that provided him with opportunities anywhere in the world, Dr. Owens returned to his home in Cincinnati where he spent his career serving his community. He was a pioneering fertility specialist at the University of Cincinnati Medical Center. He became the first African American to hold office in Hamilton County when he was elected the county coroner.

He served as president of Cincinnati State Technical and Community College. That is where I worked with him the most closely. He served as the Hamilton County interim health commissioner and as president of the non-profit Interact for Health.

His work always came back to his community and extended far outside of medicine. He sat on the boards of various organizations and foundations, including the University of Cincinnati, the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center—the only one of its kind in America. It is an extraordinary place. Anyone anywhere in the vicinity of my part of the Midwest should visit it—and the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland's Cincinnati Business Advisory Council.

He was chairman of the Cincinnati Preschool Promise. He volunteered as chair of the annual children's Cin-

cinnati Educational Television Action Auction in support of Cincinnati's public television programming.

Dr. Owens empowered each of us to make the world a better place, and he so succeeded. He reached out to me and my office to make sure we were paying close attention to issues impacting people in Cincinnati.

He was a very talented speaker known for his passionate delivery—always, always standing up for what he believed in. He was well-respected. He was dearly loved throughout our State for his courage and—what I would like most to think about—his moral clarity.

He took care of Cincinnati. I join our entire community in expressing gratitude for his lifetime of service. Today we recommit to his example.

Our thoughts are with the Owens family and with all those who knew and loved him.

REMEMBERING JULIA REICHERT

Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Julia Reichert, an award-winning filmmaker, activist, and Ohioan whom we lost last week.

Julia was born in New Jersey, but she moved to Yellow Springs, OH, in Greene County to attend Antioch College where her interests in activism and storytelling emerged—interests that led her to become a strong, well-known voice for working Americans.

During her time at Antioch, she combined her passions by hosting a feminist program on the campus radio station and making "Growing up Female," a groundbreaking feminist documentary that explored the socialization of women. Decades later, it would be added to the National Film Registry by the Library of Congress.

After college, Julia made Dayton her home as her work gained national attention. Her documentaries "Union Maids"—M-A-I-D-S—which followed women active in the Chicago labor movement, and "Seeing Red" were both nominated for Academy Awards.

Her 2010 film "The Last Truck" followed the workers at a GM plant in Moraine, OH, as they built their final truck and the plant closed down. The film became the prologue for her Academy Award-winning documentary "American Factory," which focused on the next chapter of that GM plant after a Chinese company bought it.

In "American Factory," Julia took a global story; she made it local; she made it understandable; and she made it very popular. She gave a voice to the workers and the communities overlooked by the headlines, which happens all too often with a plant closing.

In her films and documentaries, as she explored feminism and family, labor and politics, globalism and the economy, she took these big ideas and showed what they meant on a human level. Julia had a unique ability—an extraordinary ability—to connect with all kinds of people and tell their stories in respectful, empathetic, and understandable ways.

She highlighted issues that were often overlooked. Her work sparked important conversations. People who watched these films had really no idea what it was like to be these workers until they understood so much more when they came to the theater and watched these.

Julia also taught at Wright State University in Dayton, serving as a mentor to the next generation of filmmakers. She instilled in her students that no matter where they came from or who they were, they have a voice and a story to tell—no matter who they were or where they came from, how little wealth their family might have had, they have a voice and a story to tell. And it is up to us to listen to those stories. They remember her genuine interest in their lives outside of the classroom. She cared about them. That is who Julia was.

She was a champion of the labor movement, the feminist movement, and an extraordinarily talented storyteller. She was a friend, a mother, and a mentor. Our world is a better place, not just Southwest Ohio from whence she came, but our State, our whole country is a better place because of Julia and her work.

Julia's husband and fellow filmmaker Steven, whom I know, and her daughter Lela, whom I have met and is an activist just like her mother, they will together uphold—as I will try to do—uphold Julia's legacy and will continue her work.

Today our thoughts are with Steven and Lela, Julia's friends and family, and all those who knew her and loved her and so appreciated her and had the privilege of working alongside her.

I yield the floor.

NOMINATION OF MIA ROBERTS PEREZ

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today, the Senate will vote to confirm Judge Mia Perez to the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

Judge Perez is an accomplished State court judge with an impressive record as a litigator. And with her confirmation, this Senate will take another important step forward in building a Federal judiciary that reflects the diversity of America.

Born and raised in Philadelphia, Judge Perez received her B.A. from Tufts University before returning to Philadelphia to earn her J.D. from Temple University Beasley School of Law. She practiced as a criminal defense lawyer for a decade, serving for 4 years as a State public defender and another 6 years in private practice. In that time, she tried approximately 1,000 cases to judgment, during which she largely representing indigent defendants. For the past 6 years, Judge Perez has served as a judge in the criminal trial division of the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas. She has presided over approximately 400 trials, including 52 jury trials. Judge Perez has also taught trial advocacy at her alma mater, Temple University

Beasley School of Law, for more than a decade.

In recognition of her extensive trial experience on and off the bench, Judge Perez enjoys the strong bipartisan support of Senators Casey and Toomey. The American Bar Association has also unanimously rated Judge Perez as “well qualified” to serve on the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. And if confirmed, Judge Perez would make history as the second Latina judge—and the first AAPI judge—to serve in this role.

I support this outstanding nominee, and I urge my colleagues to join me in doing so.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the scheduled vote begin immediately.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the Perez nomination, which the clerk will read.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Mia Roberts Perez, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

VOTE ON PEREZ NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Perez nomination?

Mr. BROWN. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Colorado (Mr. HICKENLOOPER), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. Kaine), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER), and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ).

The result was announced—yeas 52, nays 43, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 378 Ex.]

YEAS—52

Baldwin	Hassan	Reed
Bennet	Heinrich	Rosen
Blumenthal	Hirono	Sanders
Blunt	Kelly	Schatz
Booker	King	Schumer
Brown	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Cantwell	Leahy	Sinema
Cardin	Lujan	Smith
Carper	Manchin	Stabenow
Casey	Markey	Tester
Collins	Menendez	Tillis
Coons	Merkley	Toomey
Cortez Masto	Murkowski	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Murphy	Warren
Durbin	Murray	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Ossoff	Wyden
Gillibrand	Padilla	
Graham	Peters	

NAYS—43

Barrasso	Hagerty	Risch
Blackburn	Hawley	Romney
Boozman	Hoeven	Rounds
Braun	Hyde-Smith	Rubio
Burr	Inhofe	Sasse
Capito	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Cassidy	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	Lankford	Shelby
Cotton	Lee	Sullivan
Cramer	Lummis	Thune
Crapo	Marshall	Tuberville
Daines	McConnell	Wicker
Ernst	Moran	Young
Fischer	Paul	
Grassley	Portman	

NOT VOTING—5

Cruz	Kaine	Warnock
Hickenlooper	Warner	

The nomination was confirmed.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table. The President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

CLOTURE MOTION

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 1187, Kai N. Scott, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Alex Padilla, Tina Smith, Michael F. Bennet, Christopher A. Coons, Margaret Wood Hassan, Catherine Cortez Masto, Tim Kaine, Ben Ray Lujan, Tammy Duckworth, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Angus S. King, Jr., Patty Murray, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Martin Heinrich, Jack Reed.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Kai N. Scott, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Colorado (Mr. HICKENLOOPER), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. Kaine), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER), and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK), are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) and the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON) would have voted “nay.”

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 52, nays 42, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 379 Ex.]

YEAS—52

Baldwin	Hassan	Reed
Bennet	Heinrich	Rosen
Blumenthal	Hirono	Sanders
Blunt	Kelly	Schatz
Booker	King	Schumer
Brown	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Cantwell	Leahy	Sinema
Cardin	Lujan	Smith
Carper	Manchin	Stabenow
Casey	Markey	Tester
Collins	Menendez	Tillis
Coons	Merkley	Toomey
Cortez Masto	Murkowski	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Murphy	Warren
Durbin	Murray	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Ossoff	Wyden
Gillibrand	Padilla	
Graham	Peters	

NAYS—42

Barrasso	Grassley	Portman
Blackburn	Hagerty	Risch
Boozman	Hawley	Romney
Braun	Hoeven	Rounds
Burr	Hyde-Smith	Rubio
Capito	Inhofe	Sasse
Cassidy	Kennedy	Scott (FL)
Cornyn	Lankford	Scott (SC)
Cotton	Lee	Shelby
Cramer	Lummis	Sullivan
Crapo	Marshall	Thune
Daines	McConnell	Tuberville
Ernst	Moran	Wicker
Fischer	Paul	Young

NOT VOTING—6

Cruz	Johnson	Warner
Hickenlooper	Kaine	Wernock

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. ROSEN). On this vote, the yeas are 52, the nays are 42.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Kai N. Scott, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. OSSOFF). The Senator from Alabama.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT

Mr. TUBERVILLE. Mr. President, for more than 60 years, Congress has passed the NDAA to ensure our Armed Forces are able to keep Americans safe.

The Armed Services Committee agreed on a robust, bipartisan bill in June—June. What I don't understand is why it took 6 months to schedule a vote on this critical bill. Waiting until the last minute to pass the NDAA is playing a game of chicken with our national security and with the American servicemember. I know most of my Democratic colleagues in both the House and Senate did not control the timing of this bill.

But Senator SCHUMER did. And he decided to wait so long that our chairman and ranking member were forced to conference the bill prior to it coming to the Senate floor. So let's not wait until December 2023 to get the NDAA to the floor. Let's get the fiscal year 2024 NDAA to the floor in regular order—because the consequences of playing these games with the NDAA are severe.

If Congress keeps the DOD guessing about when we might pass the NDAA,

it hinders our ability to keep up with China, assert our dominance in space, keep command of the seas, and restock our missile defenses. If we fail to pass the NDAA or kick this to next year, we should keep in mind the consequences. There will be no raise for servicemembers and no spending increases to keep up with inflation. In short, we would be in a very dangerous situation. Providing for our common defense is one of the few responsibilities mandated by the Constitution for this body.

As the House moves forward with the NDAA this week and the Senate considers the bill next week, I hope my colleagues will come together to put our common defense over partisan politics. Producing the military equipment and facilities outlined in the NDAA requires a huge supply chain. And the pandemic revealed America's concerning dependence on foreign adversaries for items we used to produce in the U.S.

Our military is dependent on imported tungsten, cobalt, and rare earth elements. In addition to the military, our Nation's food supply depends on imported materials for fertilizer. Our energy supply chains are dependent on imported aluminum, copper, graphite and uranium. All of these have been listed by the U.S. Geological Survey as "critical minerals" in 2018 and most recently in 2022. Many of these maxed out at 100 percent imports to the U.S.

In fact, we import 100 percent of our supply of 14 of the 35 critical minerals as defined by the Department of the Interior. That means our domestic production of those minerals is zero. And our dependence on foreign countries is growing.

Where are we getting our imports? Mainly from Russia, China, and their surrogates. We are importing these materials from a country waging brutal and unprovoked war on one our allies and another country with a human rights abuse record that is too long to fit into my time today. All the while, America boasts these minerals in abundance right here in the U.S. This is a disgrace.

America's enormous mineral wealth is sitting right under its citizens' feet in vast tracts of Federal and State lands. This is a tragic irony similar to the perceived oil "shortages" in the 1970s and skyrocketing energy prices we face today—even though America is endowed with near limitless oil and gas wealth. It is a self-inflicted crisis, and we are in the same boat with "critical minerals."

Instead of using what we have at home, we are importing them by doing business with nations that run counter to everything we value. Two of our largest suppliers are China and Russia.

As you can see on the chart, we depend on these adversaries for huge amounts of our supply of materials we need to produce everything from batteries to pharmaceuticals. That means, when it comes to critical minerals, we are buying from countries that don't

have humane labor standards. Child labor, forced labor, slave labor—it all exists as I speak—and the American consumer is subsidizing it.

We are buying from countries that don't value our high environmental standards. China consumes six times the amount of coal as the United States. And that figure is growing, not shrinking.

We are buying from countries that don't value freedom and democracy. Both Russia and China use our courts, our laws, our press, and our freedoms to erode trust in our most sacred institutions.

We are buying critical minerals from countries that are outright adversarial to the America, that seek to topple our place in the world. America earned her place in world affairs through blood and treasure. And we have maintained that world order to the betterment of human kind. The spread of American democracy and capitalism has lifted more humanity out of misery and poverty than any other system of government or finance the world has ever seen. In 6,000 years of recorded human civilization, no system has ever brought comfort, security, and dignity to so many.

Yet our Nation's economic and national security apparatus is at serious risk today, just as in the 1970s, except the stakes are higher given today's unstable geopolitics. According to experts at the U.S. Geological Survey, other Western industrial economies—some of whom provide critical minerals to the U.S.—are also vulnerable to global mineral supply chain manipulation. Most of those countries are also reliant on imports, making their economies somewhat "fragile"—but none more so than the United States.

The U.S. shuns its mineral wealth rather than wisely and responsibly producing critical minerals from America's vast geologic bounty. It is possible to mine critical minerals in an environmentally responsible way, like they do in Canada and Australia. These two allies are wise environmental stewards because they know how to both extract needed minerals and protect their environments. We can protect our environment and the national interest at the same time.

Just look at uranium. Clean nuclear energy powers 20 percent of America's power needs. In my home State of Alabama, it powers a full third of our homes and businesses. Uranium powers our aircraft carriers and submarine fleets, keeping America and our allies safe. America has uranium in abundance, but our nation's uranium mining industry is on life-support at 0.1 percent of global production.

So where do we buy it from? America's uranium is almost totally imported from Russia, Kazakhstan, Namibia, and even from China. Over half of the world's uranium production is in the hands of our adversaries. The International Energy Agency reports that of the 31 reactors built in the past five

years, 27 are of Russian or Chinese design. This is a completely avoidable national security emergency.

Our minerals are wealth, real wealth—worthy of innovation and use for power generation, for medical practices, in university and national laboratory reactors, and for commercial fields of research. We need critical minerals to support and defend the world's largest, technology-based, environmentally friendly economy.

We need 21st century critical mineral independence. To get there, we must disrupt the status quo of the permitting and over-regulation. We need to open modern, technology-driven, environmentally friendly mines.

There is a fast-approaching day when we will no longer be able to count on foreign imports. The necessary sanctions we have placed on Russia highlight the dangers of foreign dependence. Natural resource issues matter to the American people.

The mineral wealth located on vast tracts of federal lands belong to us all. This wealth gives us the ability to use our natural resource endowment to help secure America's critical mineral supply chains. It is essential to our economy, independence, and safety that this nation secure its critical mineral supply chains.

I yield the floor.

NOMINATION OF KAI N. SCOTT

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today, the Senate will vote to confirm Judge Kai Scott to the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

A native of Philadelphia, Judge Scott earned her J.D. from West Virginia University College of Law after receiving her B.A. from Hampton University. After graduating from law school, she clerked for 2 years for the Honorable Donald Poorman of the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry, Bureau of Workers' Compensation. Judge Scott began her legal career as a public defender, serving at both the State and Federal levels for 18 years, including 5 years leading the trial unit at the Federal Community Defender Office for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. During her time in practice, she tried more than 160 cases to verdict or judgment. Since 2016, Judge Scott has served as a judge in the Criminal Trial Division of the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas. In that time, she has authored 60 opinions and presided over 600 trials, including 120 jury trials.

With nearly two decades of litigation experience and 6 years of judicial experience, Judge Scott has been rated as "well qualified" for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania by the American Bar Association. She also enjoys the strong bipartisan support of Senators CASEY and TOOMEY, and I hope my colleagues will follow their lead in supporting this highly qualified nominee.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. KING. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

VOTE ON SCOTT NOMINATION

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Scott nomination?

Mr. KING. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. HICKENLOOPER), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE), the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER), and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) and the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON).

The result was announced—yeas 50, nays 42, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 380 Ex.]

YEAS—50

Baldwin	Hassan	Peters
Bennet	Heinrich	Reed
Blumenthal	Hirono	Rosen
Blunt	Kelly	Sanders
Booker	King	Schumer
Brown	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Cantwell	Leahy	Sinema
Cardin	Lujan	Smith
Carper	Manchin	Stabenow
Casey	Markey	Tester
Collins	Menendez	Tillis
Coons	Merkley	Toomey
Cortez Masto	Murkowski	Van Hollen
Durbin	Murphy	Warren
Feinstein	Murray	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Ossoff	Wyden
Graham	Padilla	

NAYS—42

Barrasso	Grassley	Portman
Blackburn	Hagerty	Risch
Boozman	Hawley	Romney
Braun	Hoeven	Rounds
Burr	Hyde-Smith	Rubio
Capito	Inhofe	Sasse
Cassidy	Kennedy	Scott (FL)
Cornyn	Lankford	Scott (SC)
Cotton	Lee	Shelby
Cramer	Lummis	Sullivan
Crapo	Marshall	Thune
Daines	McConnell	Tuberville
Ernst	Moran	Wicker
Fischer	Paul	Young

NOT VOTING—8

Cruz	Johnson	Warner
Duckworth	Kaine	Warnock
Hickenlooper	Schatz	

The nomination was confirmed.

(Ms. SMITH assumed the Chair.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. ROSEN). The Senator from Delaware.

Mr. COONS. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate recess following the vote on the Murphy nomination until 4:30 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President

will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

NOMINATION OF JOHN FRANK MURPHY

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, today, the Senate will vote to confirm John Frank Murphy to the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

Mr. Murphy's distinguished legal career will make him an asset on the Federal bench. He received a B.S. from Cornell University, a Ph.D. from the California Institute of Technology, and a J.D. from Harvard Law School before clerking for Judge Kimberly A. Moore on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit.

In private practice, Mr. Murphy has focused on intellectual property and patent litigation. He has worked on litigation in Federal courts, International Trade Commission investigations, and contested proceedings at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. In addition to his IP and patent practice, Mr. Murphy has dedicated a significant amount of time to conducting pro bono work for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania's Prisoner Civil Rights Program. Mr. Murphy has been rated unanimously "well qualified" by the American Bar Association, and he has bipartisan support from his home State senators, Mr. CASEY and Mr. TOOMEY.

Mr. Murphy's technical expertise and strong background in IP and patent law will be an asset to the district court. I support his nomination and urge my colleagues to do the same.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the Murphy nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of John Frank Murphy, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

VOTE ON MURPHY NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Murphy nomination?

Mr. COONS. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. HICKENLOOPER), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER), and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator

from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) and the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON).

The result was announced—yeas 63, nays 28, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 381 Ex.]

YEAS—63

Baldwin	Grassley	Peters
Bennet	Hassan	Portman
Blackburn	Heinrich	Reed
Blumenthal	Hirono	Romney
Blunt	Hyde-Smith	Rosen
Booker	Kelly	Rounds
Brown	Kennedy	Sasse
Burr	King	Schumer
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Capito	Leahy	Sinema
Cardin	Lujan	Smith
Carper	Manchin	Stabenow
Casey	Markey	Tester
Collins	McConnell	Tillis
Coons	Menendez	Toomey
Cornyn	Merkley	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Murkowski	Warren
Durbin	Murphy	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Murray	Wicker
Gillibrand	Ossoff	Wyden
Graham	Padilla	Young

NAYS—28

Barrasso	Hagerty	Risch
Boozman	Hawley	Rubio
Braun	Hoeben	Scott (FL)
Cassidy	Inhofe	Scott (SC)
Cotton	Lankford	Shelby
Cramer	Lee	Sullivan
Crapo	Lummis	Thune
Daines	Marshall	Tuberville
Ernst	Moran	
Fischer	Paul	

NOT VOTING—9

Cruz	Johnson	Schatz
Duckworth	Kaine	Warner
Hickenlooper	Sanders	Warkock

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 4:30 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 2:58 p.m., recessed until 4:30 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Ms. BALDWIN).

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The senior Senator from Texas.

BORDER SECURITY

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, yesterday, President Biden traveled to Phoenix, AZ, to visit the site of a new semiconductor manufacturing plant.

I am a proud proponent of domestic semiconductor manufacturing because it has become a matter of economic and national security, and it enjoys broad bipartisan support here in the Senate through the CHIPS and Science Act.

It is exciting to see the sort of announcements that we were seeing in Arizona and these new chipmaking investments on American soil. But it is hardly the most pressing or most urgent matter on the minds of Arizonans or Texans or any other border State

communities as well as folks across the country.

It is only about 150 miles from Phoenix to the United States-Mexico border, which has been willfully neglected by the Biden administration.

Under President Biden's administration, we have broken one record after another when it comes to illegal immigration at the southern border, and the system is now near its breaking point with the expiration of title 42, which is the public health title which has given the Border Patrol the authority to repel people coming across the border—some of them, at least—using that tool. But when that goes away, Border Patrol, absent any change in administration policy, will not be able to return those individuals—mainly adult males—back across the border for illegally entering the United States.

So despite the President getting on Air Force One at Andrews Air Force Base, flying to Phoenix, AZ, a border State, the President's trip did not include a short trip and visit to the border. After all, the President has pretty good transportation. He has got Air Force One. Can you imagine? It would just take a quick hop to the border to give the President the opportunity to learn because he has not visited the border once since he took office.

He could have done what I have done and what other Members of the Senate have done when we visited the border. He could have asked the Border Patrol agents to share their challenges, ask what he could do to help.

He could have asked what can the Federal Government do to make your job easier in order to address this crisis.

He could have talked to Customs and Border Protection Office of Field Operation officers about their efforts to interdict the drugs that took the life of 108,000 Americans last year alone, virtually all of which comes across the southern border.

He could have just simply said thank you, thank you for your service to the countless men and women who are on the frontlines of this crisis each and every day.

Unfortunately, President Biden couldn't be bothered to make that trip.

As he was leaving Washington yesterday, a reporter asked the President why he would visit Arizona, a border State, and not go to the border.

The President responded:

Because there are more important things going on.

Talk about a slap in the face to every single person who is troubled by what is happening at the southern border.

Every day, migrants are being exploited by people who care nothing about their welfare but view them simply as a commodity to make money. The stories of the abuse of migrants who take the long and dangerous trip from their home across the southern border are legion. The President could have learned more about that and expressed concern and say: You know,

what can we do to discourage people from making that long and dangerous trip into the United States and being subjected to sexual assault and other forms of abuse?

He could have asked about the fentanyl, the synthetic opioids, and other dangerous drugs that are coming into our country and killing innocent people in our communities. We have had a number of teenage children, schoolchildren, killed when they consumed a pill that they thought was maybe a prescription drug like Xanax or Percocet, which was contaminated with fentanyl. It just takes a pencil lead portion of fentanyl to kill you. Unfortunately, that has been happening because of the border crisis and the drugs flowing across the southern border.

The cartels and criminal organizations are getting rich off the trail of death and destruction that they have created. But let it be known: President Joe Biden thinks there are more important things to do.

That is more outrageous than disappointing, but it is really both. It is outrageous and disappointing to hear the President of the United States admit this outright. But as dangerous, outrageous, and disappointing as it is to hear him say it, we really shouldn't be surprised by his inaction when it comes to addressing this crisis.

For nearly 2 years, President Biden and his administration have ignored the crisis at the border so he refuses to visit. You know, he might just learn something. He might find out that this is not about root causes, which is what Secretary Blinken and others, Vice President HARRIS, have said. They think illegal immigration is a result of root causes.

Well, there is a component of that—people experiencing violence or poverty in their home country who want to come to the United States—but it is also about drug smugglers. It is also about criminals who have been deported for endangering Americans, and yet they come back across the border to do it again and again.

So the President might have actually learned something if he had just taken a few minutes to talk to the people who work and live on the border.

So he refuses to visit; he avoids talking about it; he acts like there is nothing wrong when, in fact, we are experiencing an unprecedented humanitarian and security crisis.

Since President Biden took office, U.S. Customs and Border Protection has encountered more than 4 million—4 million—migrants at the southern border. During the full 8 years of the Obama administration, Customs and Border Protection didn't see that many migrants. In 2 years, we have seen more than they saw in 8 years during the Obama administration.

President Biden's policies have not only tolerated this situation, it has actually made it worse and encouraged more migrants to make the trip to our

border and successfully get into the interior of the United States.

Whether or not President Biden wants to admit it or not, there is a crisis at the southern border. Everybody who takes 30 seconds to learn about it understands it. And the truth is, this crisis, as bad as it is, is getting worse because of the President's open border policies.

From day 1, the Biden administration decided they needed to dismantle all of the policies of the previous administration that deterred illegal immigration. It is not just about catching people who come into the country illegally; it is also about discouraging people from making that trip in the first place. And the Biden administration's policies create the impression that anybody who can make it to the border can make it into the interior.

The administration has rolled out a steady parade of rhetoric, policies, and guidance that sent a clear message: Cross the southern border and you will be able to successfully make your way into the United States.

So it is no surprise that this message that has been sent by open border policies and a lack of enforcement, it is no surprise we have seen these unprecedented numbers.

For the first time on record, Customs and Border Protection logged more than 2 million border crossings in a single year. They encountered nearly 2.4 million migrants in fiscal year 2022.

In October, we logged the highest number of migrant encounters on record. This is 230,000 in a single month.

If this happened in any one of the States represented by my colleagues that are not border States, I wonder what their reaction would be. When Governor Abbott or Governor Ducey or Governor DeSantis had put some of these migrants on a bus and sent them to Washington or Chicago or New York, Mayor Adams said: This is a crisis. Mayor Bowser in Washington, DC, said: We need the National Guard to come out when just a few thousand migrants make their way into the interior. But when 230,000 show up on the border of Texas in a single month, they could care less.

As shocking as these statistics are, they don't tell the full story. Whether we are talking about migrant encounters, drug seizures, terrorist arrests, you have to remember, these are just the ones we know about.

When Border Patrol agents are asked to process and care for thousands of migrants a day, that means they are not on the frontlines securing our border. They can't stop the drug smugglers if they are filling out paperwork or providing formula to an unaccompanied child.

New reporting from FOX News shed light on how many individuals evaded Border Patrol just last month. Law enforcement refers to these as the "got-aways." But they don't pull that number out of thin air.

The United States-Mexico border includes an extensive network of physical and technological barriers. Some sections have 30-foot steel walls, others have vehicle barriers, others include sensors, cameras, and other surveillance equipment.

Known got-aways are those who are spotted by some form of surveillance but not apprehended by the Border Patrol, and last month, Border Patrol logged more than 73,000 got-aways.

Let's see, in October, we logged the highest number of migrant encounters on record, more than 230,000 in a single month. And during that same month, 73,000 more migrants were got-aways. These are 73,000 people who did not want to encounter Border Patrol. They weren't seeking asylum; they were trying to evade law enforcement and probably for a very good reason.

Of course, even that data doesn't tell the full story. These are just the known got-aways for a single month. There is no way of knowing how many actually evaded detection entirely, especially over the course of the last 2 years.

It is not just the people we are concerned about. It is dangerous drugs like fentanyl, heroin, methamphetamine, as well as illicit weapons and drug money.

The criminal organizations and cartels that take advantage of and exploit the administration's open border policies are, in two words, commodity agnostic. In other words, they will deal in drugs, weapons, or people as long as it makes them money—commodity agnostic.

President Biden and his policies are the best thing that ever happened to their dirty business.

It is making them rich while trading on human misery and death. I disagreed with President Biden's assessment that there are more important things than what is going on at the border. That is easy for him to say, sitting in the White House in Washington, DC.

The people I represent, who live and work along the border, are overwhelmed. And this is a Federal responsibility. This shouldn't be up to the States because this is an international border. By definition, it is a Federal responsibility.

This state of chaos is also hurting the migrants who are sold lies by the cartels and traffickers and are duped into paying thousands of dollars a head to come to the United States. And, you know what, you go to Houston, TX, and some of those same migrants are held hostage, working in prostitution or forced labor by the people who say they will turn them in to the authorities and reveal the fact that they are illegally in the United States unless they continue in that forced labor or that prostitution.

As I said, this is hurting our border communities, which are now apparently expected to carry the weight of feeding, caring for, and transporting thousands upon thousands of migrants.

And it is weighing on the men and women in our law enforcement community who put their lives on the line to secure the border and to protect the American people.

I wonder if President Biden knows that last month three Border Patrol agents took their own lives—two from Texas and one from New Mexico. It is absolutely heartbreaking to see the toll this crisis is taking on these brave men and women who have been begging the administration for support for nearly 2 years. This isn't asking them to do something over and above what is required because all they are asking is for the administration to enforce the law, to let them enforce the law, and to relieve them of the burden of this abdication of responsibility.

So if President Biden had taken a few minutes to hop down to the border in Air Force One when he was in Phoenix yesterday, he might have learned some of this. Over the years, I have had the pleasure of learning from and working with the men and women who live and work along Texas's 1,200-mile border with Mexico. We are talking about law enforcement officials, local officials like the county judges, the mayors, the private property owners, the small business owners, and folks who run nonprofits. They have provided an unvarnished view of how decisions in Washington impact their communities, the economy, and our national security.

And President Biden could have learned this—Vice President HARRIS, too. I have taken the opportunity, along with my colleague Senator CRUZ, to introduce dozens of our Senate colleagues to these people on the border that I am talking about so they could gain a better understanding of the challenges that they are up against and the things that we could do that would make their life and the conditions on the border better.

And I will just issue an open invitation, Madam President. I am happy to invite President Biden to come to Texas, to the border, and I would be delighted to introduce him to these people that I have talked about—law enforcement, small businesses, local elected officials, private property owners—that are being absolutely overwhelmed by this border crisis created by President Biden's open-border policies. If he would take the time to actually listen to their experiences, there is no way he would continue to believe that there are more important things going on.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam President, I ask that the vote begin now.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CLOTURE MOTION

Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 1238, Jeffery Paul Hopkins, of Ohio, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Ohio.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Alex Padilla, Michael F. Bennet, Brian Schatz, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Mazie Hirono, Chris Van Hollen, Jacky Rosen, Margaret Wood Hassan, Sherrod Brown, Amy Klobuchar, Tina Smith, Debbie Stabenow, Elizabeth Warren, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Tammy Duckworth.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Jeffery Paul Hopkins, of Ohio, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Ohio, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. HICKENLOOPER), the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ), and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) and the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 60, nays 34, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 382 Ex.]

YEAS—60

Baldwin	Heinrich	Reed
Bennet	Hirono	Romney
Blumenthal	Kaine	Rosen
Booker	Kelly	Rounds
Brown	Kennedy	Sanders
Burr	King	Sasse
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Schumer
Cardin	Leahy	Shaheen
Carper	Lujan	Sinema
Casey	Manchin	Smith
Collins	Markey	Stabenow
Coons	Menendez	Tester
Cornyn	Merkley	Tillis
Cortez Masto	Murkowski	Toomey
Durbin	Murphy	Van Hollen
Feinstein	Murray	Warnock
Gillibrand	Ossoff	Warren
Graham	Padilla	Whitehouse
Grassley	Peters	Wicker
Hassan	Portman	Wyden

NAYS—34

Barrasso	Cramer	Hoeven
Blackburn	Crapo	Hyde-Smith
Blunt	Daines	Inhofe
Boozman	Ernst	Johnson
Braun	Fischer	Lankford
Capito	Hagerty	Lee
Cassidy	Hawley	Lummis

Marshall	Rubio	Thune
McConnell	Scott (FL)	Tuberville
Moran	Scott (SC)	Young
Paul	Shelby	
Risch	Sullivan	

NOT VOTING—6

Cotton	Duckworth	Schatz
Cruz	Hickenlooper	Warner

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. On this vote, the yeas are 60, the nays are 34.

The motion is agreed to.

NOMINATION OF JERRY W. BLACKWELL

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, today, the Senate will vote to confirm Jerry Blackwell to serve on the U.S. District Court for the District of Minnesota.

Mr. Blackwell will bring outstanding qualifications and deep experience to the Federal bench. He received his undergraduate and law degrees from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill before entering private practice and, eventually, establishing his own law firm. Mr. Blackwell has specialized in commercial litigation, including mass torts, and he has represented Fortune 100 and Fortune 500 companies in a variety of matters.

But in addition to his success in the private sector, Mr. Blackwell has also answered the call to serve. In 2021, he served as a special prosecutor in the trial of Derek Chauvin, who was convicted for the horrific murder of George Floyd. Mr. Blackwell has also committed himself to increasing diversity in the legal profession by serving as a founding member of the Minnesota Association of Black Lawyers and the Minnesota Equity and Justice Project.

Given his broad, extensive experience, it is no surprise that the American Bar Association unanimously rated Mr. Blackwell “well qualified” to serve on the district court. He also enjoys the strong support of his home State Senators, Ms. KLOBUCHAR and Ms. SMITH. I am proud to support Mr. Blackwell’s nomination, and I strongly urge my colleagues to do the same.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the Blackwell nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Jerry W. Blackwell, of Minnesota, to be United States District Judge for the District of Minnesota.

VOTE ON BLACKWELL NOMINATION

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Blackwell nomination?

Mr. KELLY. Madam President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there a sufficient?

There is a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. HICKENLOOPER), the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ), and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) and the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ).

The result was announced—yeas 51, nays 43, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 383 Ex.]

YEAS—51

Baldwin	Grassley	Ossoff
Bennet	Hassan	Padilla
Blumenthal	Heinrich	Peters
Blunt	Hirono	Reed
Booker	Kaine	Rosen
Brown	Kelly	Sanders
Cantwell	King	Schumer
Cardin	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Carper	Leahy	Sinema
Casey	Lujan	Smith
Collins	Manchin	Stabenow
Coons	Markey	Tester
Cortez Masto	Menendez	Van Hollen
Durbin	Merkley	Warnock
Feinstein	Murkowski	Warren
Gillibrand	Murphy	Whitehouse
Graham	Murray	Wyden

NAYS—43

Barrasso	Hoeven	Rounds
Blackburn	Hyde-Smith	Rubio
Boozman	Inhofe	Sasse
Braun	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Burr	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Capito	Lankford	Shelby
Cassidy	Lee	Sullivan
Cornyn	Lummis	Thune
Cramer	Marshall	Tillis
Crapo	McConnell	Toomey
Daines	Moran	Tuberville
Ernst	Paul	Wicker
Fischer	Portman	Young
Hagerty	Risch	
Hawley	Romney	

NOT VOTING—6

Cotton	Duckworth	Schatz
Cruz	Hickenlooper	Warner

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. OSSOFF). Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate’s action.

The Senator from Ohio.

UKRAINE

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I come to the floor for the 27th consecutive week since the invasion of Ukraine to give another update to the American people on the brutal, illegal, and totally unprovoked attack by Russia on its neighbor Ukraine. This is at a time when brave Ukrainian freedom fighters continue to successfully fend off the third largest army in the world.

What Russia thought was going to be a weeklong invasion, successfully occupying Ukraine, is now past the 9-month mark. Against all odds, Ukraine has not only survived, but they have pushed back a much larger Russian army—more than half of the land that Russia occupied in Ukraine. Remember, they were all up here in the area of Kyiv and all down here. More than half of the land has been liberated already.

Here in the northeast part of Ukraine, near Kharkiv, in this province, the Kharkiv Oblast, the Ukrainian forces continue to make progress pushing back against the Russian forces.

It has been slow—a combination of things. One is, it is mud season. It is very difficult for them to get through the mud with their armored vehicles. The second is, the Russian forces who were pushed back from here in September have now dug in along this line. So it is slower going, but they continue to fight.

They are continuing with the momentum that started when they took over Kharkiv.

Further south, near Bakhmut—and Bakhmut is in this area, and I was actually in Bakhmut back in 2018 at the so-called line of contact—there is very intense fighting going on. This is where you have had months and months of fierce combat, lots of artillery. It has turned this area, the Bakhmut area where I was, into a battlefield reminiscent of what you might have seen during World War II—just total destruction, as you can see from this photograph.

This is the Bakhmut area today. There you have the Russian forces, mostly the Wagner Group, which is a mercenary group, making steady but very slow progress. Ukraine has made them pay dearly for every meter, but that is, again, kind of in that central part of eastern Ukraine.

In the south of Ukraine, near Kherson, they have also made good progress. You can see here in the blue where the Ukrainian forces, in the fall, earlier this fall, were able to liberate parts of occupied Ukraine.

This is an interesting area. I think it is relatively quiet right now. We had a briefing today about that. But I don't think it is going to stay quiet for long. This is an area to watch. There are already reports of Ukrainian raids, actually, on a small peninsula there.

This is a little closer look at this. Ukrainian raids have now been made on this peninsula which goes out into the Black Sea. Also, we know that Ukrainian forces have crossed the river here, the Dnipro River, and planted Ukrainian flags on the other side of the river, letting the Russians know they are not safe in this region; this is Ukraine.

They have also started to evacuate, facilitate the evacuation of some of the Ukrainian civilians from this side, the occupied side of the river.

All this indicates to me that the Ukrainians are continuing to send a clear signal to the Russians that they are not done in terms of liberating this part of Ukraine this winter.

Unfortunately, while the nation of Ukraine has survived this war, so far not all Ukrainians have. These gains on the battlefield I have talked about have come at a tremendous cost. Casualty reports have been hard to come by, but we know that tens of thousands

of Ukrainian soldiers have been killed during this liberation.

But it is not just the men and women in uniform that are taking the brunt of Vladimir Putin's aggression. Since the first day of this war, it is innocent Ukrainians themselves who have been dying. They have been intentionally targeted by Russian forces.

How many cities and villages have now become infamous for the war crimes committed by Russia? Bucha and Irpin, cities where I was visiting several weeks ago; Mariupol, Izium. Think of 4-year-old Liza. We had her photograph up here on the floor. She was killed in Vinnytsia in July. Think of 2-day-old Serhii, who was killed 2 weeks ago—2 days old, a newborn—at a maternity hospital in Vilniansk.

The United Nations reports that at least 6,500 civilians have been killed in this senseless Russian war, then adds that “the actual figures are considerably higher.” We just don't know what they are. This is because we know so little about the horrors which are occurring behind enemy lines.

So when you think about it, although we know more about the casualties that have occurred in the interior of Ukraine, what we don't know is how many casualties and war crimes and deaths are occurring in this Russian-occupied area, the red area.

What we do know is that so many of the atrocities in this war are only brought to light months after they occur. They happen in silence, and then they are discovered when these territories are liberated by Ukrainian forces. That is the bittersweet pattern of this war: You have the Russians occupying a territory, committing heinous war crimes, atrocities. Then the area is liberated, and we discover these horrific crimes.

And Russia's crimes are not just limited to the territory it occupies. Russian forces are losing on the battlefield, as we talked about, not making the progress they want, and they are sort of taking their frustration out on the rest of Ukraine. This is with cruise missiles and drones, bombing all of these other parts of Ukraine.

They continue to strike noncombatants. A whole new wave of attacks occurred yesterday, as an example, mostly on Ukrainian infrastructure, energy infrastructure, but also on just civilian targets. They have destroyed neighborhoods, schools, hospitals. As this photo shows, they have really targeted civilian infrastructure. This is, again, some of the energy infrastructure that they have targeted.

When I was in Kyiv with Senator COONS about 3 weeks ago—we were there several days after one of the powerplants had been attacked—actually, the national utility—and these were targeted attacks on the infrastructure. But also Ukrainians, civilians, and workers were killed. It is not just collateral damage. These are targeted attacks on civilians—targeted and cruel.

Russia's goal, of course, is to try to force a whole new wave of civilians to

flee from their homes and head west. This massive displacement, of course, would further devastate Ukraine's economy, which is already expected to contract about 35 percent this year. We have seen this time and time again since the war has started. They can't defeat Ukraine on the battlefield, so they strike behind the battlefield to try to destroy Ukraine as a whole.

The actions by the Kremlin to destroy these civilian areas and kill innocent Ukrainians are also, of course, meant to dampen the Ukrainian resolve. But what I have seen on my trips to Ukraine and my trips to the region is that every time there is a Russian atrocity, the resolve of the Ukrainian people doesn't weaken; it gets stronger—and for good reason.

And the Ukrainian military certainly isn't backing down in their fierce defense of their homeland. In fact, a Ukrainian military spokesman recently said that Ukraine intends to continue, if not accelerate, its counter-offensive this winter in these areas we talked about—in particular here and here. So stay tuned because I think the Ukrainians are not done yet this winter in many places along the frontline, although the winter is bitterly cold for the infantry. The ground is also frozen solid, which makes mechanized warfare possible again.

Additionally, on Monday and again today, there were explosions reported at military bases in Russia. These are military bases hundreds of miles behind the frontlines. So this is in Russian territory. There are military bases that are experiencing explosions. These bases happen to house the Tu-95 bombers, which have regularly taken part in Russia's deadly cruise missile strikes against Ukrainian civilians.

According to the British Ministry of Defense, these explosions constitute, as they say, “some of the most strategically significant failures of Russian force protection since [Russia's] invasion of Ukraine.”

Ukraine is the shield defending freedom in the West. When I visited Ukraine in August and November, I heard from so many Ukrainians who see themselves that way. They are holding Russia at bay, essentially, for the rest of the world. For years—think about it—Russia has threatened Europe and other regions with military action. We have all witnessed their attack of the country of Georgia and their brutal tactics in Syria and Chechnya.

In 2014, and then, of course, in February of this year, Ukraine became Russia's next target; and if Ukraine falls, Russia has promised other dominos will fall in Eastern and Central Europe. They have said openly they want to recreate the Soviet Union or the Russian Empire, which would include so many countries in the region.

The brave soldiers of Ukraine, men and women in uniform, are holding back the forces of Russian tyranny, and we should honor their sacrifice and

their bravery. Fortunately, they are not in this fight alone. Over 50 countries from around the world have stepped up to help Ukraine defend itself.

Ukraine's freedom fighters have been trained and equipped not just by the United States but by dozens of other countries that believe in freedom. Ukrainians are well aware of this, and they are eternally grateful. I hear this gratitude every time I am with Ukrainians. Yesterday, I met with a bunch of Ukrainian Parliamentarians from their Rada here in Washington. But when I have been in Ukraine, I have heard it also.

When I spoke with President Zelenskyy in Kyiv in August and again in November, the first thing he said to me was, "Thank you to the American people."

The aid from the United States and our allies does not go unnoticed or unappreciated. Ukrainian soldiers are bearing the brunt of Russia's wrath, but because of the significant assistance provided by the West, President Zelenskyy speaks about this war against Russian aggression as a joint battle and that we should continue to strive together toward our joint victory.

Ukrainians are well aware of the need to provide transparency to taxpayers here in the United States as to how this aid is being used. I think that is very important. During both my visits to Kyiv this year, I spoke with our diplomats at the U.S. Embassy about how they are ensuring proper oversight and accountability for military aid.

I have also met twice with the 101st Airborne in Poland, the principal unit responsible for delivery of U.S. and allied military assistance. They have gone into great detail about how they are tracking and monitoring the U.S. military assistance through so-called end-use monitoring to ensure the military equipment actually ends up in the right hands.

One thing interesting to me, confirmed again today, is that we have sent these HIMARS, which are these rocket-launching systems, to Ukraine that have been particularly effective and that, at least at this point—we have sent about 20 of them—not a single one, not a single one has been attacked and destroyed or has gotten into the wrong hands.

We also believe, from what we know, unbelievably, that with all the weapons we are sending to Ukraine, we don't have any instances that are documented of these weapons getting into the wrong hands. Plenty of Russian weapons have gotten into Ukrainians' hands—I will tell you that—including lots of armored vehicles that they have left behind.

So no one is advocating that this Congress or U.S. taxpayers give Ukraine a blank check. This aid is generously provided by taxpayers so it has got to be accountable to taxpayers. Ukraine knows that and, again, has

gone to great lengths to provide transparency, even in this time of war.

These resources fund not only Ukraine's military; they back the government and help maintain and repair civilian infrastructure. Ukraine's economy has been hit so hard by this conflict that, without help from its allies, the government there would be unable to provide many basic services to its citizens.

The Europeans, Japanese, and others, of course, have stepped up here, as they should. This is particularly important this winter. As Russia attacks Ukraine's energy infrastructure to plunge the country into cold darkness, the humanitarian aid from the United States and dozens of other countries has ensured that innocent men, women, and children are able to survive the cold Ukrainian winter amidst these heinous Russian war crimes.

Our economic aid, along with that of the European Union and dozens of other countries, has supported Ukraine's Government so that critical services to its citizens can continue. With regard to the economic assistance, by the way, the Ukraine budget support goes through the World Bank from the United States because, in addition to our own oversight, the bank adds a second layer of oversight and accountability, including issuing periodic reports and audits to both parties.

Economic assistance is further monitored by a USAID contractor, the U.S. accounting firm Deloitte. They monitor all expenses, which is a good thing, in my view.

We also need to ensure our constituents that what we are providing to Ukraine is actually working; it is making a difference. And it certainly is. When Ukraine took back the city of Kherson here, which was the first and only provincial capital taken by Russia, the key element to their success, I am told, was the military equipment provided by the United States—and others, but primarily the United States—and that was the HIMARS launchers we talked about a moment ago. These missile launchers were very effective at tearing down the Russian infrastructure that was providing the supplies to Russia—so the weapons, the food, and so on. By wearing down the Russian forces and forcing them to abandon the city, the American weapons were very effective in debilitating Russia's ability to command and resupply its forces.

And the air defense systems provided by the United States and our allies have helped Ukraine shoot down hundreds of missiles and drones launched by Russia that otherwise would have killed innocent civilians.

I do continue to believe that we can and should do more, by the way, particularly with regard to military assistance. I continue to urge the Biden administration to provide Ukraine with more of the weapons that the Ukrainians themselves have said they actually want and need and can use.

This would include fourth-generation advanced fighter jets—not the latest and greatest but things like F-16s that we are not using that they could use, that other countries have that we could allow them to provide to Ukraine; Abrams tanks that other countries have that they are willing to provide; long-range missiles.

If we are serious about helping Ukraine continue to win, as opposed to the possibility that this could just result in a stalemate, we should provide these weapons so that they can respond to the very real Russian threat.

Let me pose this question to my colleagues who are skeptical about assistance: If we had not led our allies in supporting Ukraine during this fight for survival, what would have happened? What would have happened if we allowed this authoritarian regime to dominate and subjugate its neighbors by force of arms?

Ukraine would have become an occupied state. Many more refugees, by the millions, would have fled to Europe, to the United States, and elsewhere. And even if the threat by Vladimir Putin to occupy all these other independent countries in the neighborhood that were once part of the Soviet Union had not yet become a reality, the United States would have mobilized thousands of troops and massive amounts of weapons at the borders of these NATO allies at a tremendous cost to the American taxpayer.

I think we have to think about that, think about what the alternative would have been. It also would have resulted, of course, in the rules-based international order that we have had in place for almost 80 years, since World War II, crumbling in Ukraine. What would have happened then? What message would aggressive adversaries like China and Iran take from that?

The world would have become a much more dangerous and volatile place, let's be honest. Countries would have armed up. This is why it is so important that we continue to support Ukraine. Our enemies and our adversaries alike are watching very carefully. We can't pull back now, not during this critical time. We cannot falter.

In addition to working with our allies to help Ukraine win on the battlefield, we have got to continue to tighten the global sanctions and export controls on Russia. I believe it is only that combination—success on the battlefield and making the Russian economy feel the pain—that is going to be successful in getting Russia to the peace table. Export controls already are blocking supplies, including semiconductors, needed to create military equipment in Russia. So that is having an effect. Sanctions must include better success at stopping the energy receipts to Russia that are fueling the war machine.

I mentioned what is happening to the Ukrainian economy. The Russian economy has also gone down but not nearly as much as the Ukrainian economy.

Why? Largely because the economy depends on the energy receipts that are still coming in from Russia selling its oil and gas around the world.

This week, there was some progress on that front. Back in June, the European Union decided to end all seaborne Russian oil imports by December 5. That was Monday. And the EU did, indeed, follow through on this promise. I applaud the European Union for taking that step.

However, in June, the EU also committed to end financing and insurance services for all vessels carrying Russian oil, even to non-European countries. This would be devastating to Russian oil exports since Europe dominates a large chunk of the maritime services market. Financing and insurance: Without financing and insurance from Europe, these ships would never embark and Russian oil sales would plummet.

Unfortunately, in this case, the EU did not follow through on this promise made in June. Instead, on Friday, the EU, the United States, other G-7 countries, and Australia agreed to what is being called a “price cap” scheme. Under this framework, the participating countries will continue to provide financing insurance for vessels selling Russian oil but only below a certain cost per barrel. So instead of ending these sales of seaborne Russian oil exports, we are enabling them at a lower price. What is more, as the Washington Post reports, the price cap, which was agreed to at \$60 per barrel, “is well above Russia’s cost of production and close to where its oil is currently trading—meaning it may not have much of a direct impact.”

That is my concern about it. I understand that there is another argument that the Russian oil price would, perhaps, be even higher at lower volumes if they didn’t have these ships. But I think the first plan made in June would have been much more effective in helping to tighten these sanctions.

Analysts, by the way, said the cap will have little immediate impact on the oil revenues that Moscow is currently earning. In fact, Russia itself said on Monday the cap is not going to hurt the financing of its special military operation, as they call it, in Ukraine—this deadly and unprovoked war.

The price cap is “an unhappy compromise that will do very little to cut Russia’s oil revenue” from current levels, said Ben Cahill, an energy security expert at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington.

I would ask the suffering people of Ukraine what they would think about it. Ukraine, Poland, and the Baltic States—who have consistently been right about the threat of Russian aggression—suggested a price cap of just \$30 a barrel if they were going to do a price cap; so half of the \$60 that the EU, the G-7, the U.S., and Australia ended up at. The one we agreed to, again, was twice as high.

On a more positive note, at a meeting in Romania last week, the NATO’s Secretary General reaffirmed that the door to membership remains open to Ukraine. This has been NATO’s official policy for Ukraine, by the way, since 2008, but it was important that the alliance reaffirm that commitment last week in the context of Vladimir Putin’s war on Ukraine.

I encourage NATO to begin the steps to welcome Ukraine in the future. Despite all the atrocities and hardships now we have talked about tonight, I believe that Ukraine will eventually prevail in this conflict and survive as a country and that Ukraine will someday join NATO and the European Union to add the most important security guarantees they could get. No amount of Russian missiles can stop that, by the way, because the people of Ukraine will always have something that Russia does not: freedom and faith.

Faith is what our Founding Fathers had so many years ago when they set out on a risky journey to chart America’s own destiny—faith that freedom would work. Faith is what the Ukrainian people grasped onto as they embarked on their own Revolution of Dignity in 2014, abandoning a corrupt Russian-backed regime and choosing freedom, democracy, and free markets. Ukrainians chose to stand with us, with the European Union and the United States and other free nations.

Faith is what gave the people of Ukraine the strength and resolve at the beginning of Russia’s overwhelming invasion in February—faith that as a country, they would survive, and as a people, they would come out on the other end of this conflict—when the odds were so stacked against them—more unified than ever.

Against all odds, again, that faith has been justified time and time again during this bloody war. Now, once again, it is time for us to join our allies in keeping the faith—faith in the proven Ukrainian bravery and perseverance and faith that freedom will win out over tyranny if we stay the course.

I yield the floor.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KELLY). The Senator from New Hampshire.

Ms. HASSAN. I ask unanimous consent that at a time to be determined by the majority leader, in consultation with the Republican Leader, the Senate proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 1103, Jay Curtis Shambaugh, of Maryland, to be an Under Secretary of the Treasury; that there be 10 minutes for debate equally divided in the usual form on the nomination; that upon the use or yielding back of time, the Senate vote without intervening action or debate on the nomination; that if the nomination is confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the

table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate’s action and the Senate then resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session and be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO KEN LEONARD

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, anyone who knows Coach Ken Leonard knows that he cares deeply about football, but more than that, he cares deeply about people. As Illinois’ most successful high school football coach, Coach Leonard has left his mark on our State by leading Sacred Heart-Griffin High School to six State football championships and harnessing the power of sports to build confidence in young athletes. He never let any challenges get in his way and always inspired others to follow his lead.

Ken Leonard was born July 7, 1953, in Lexington, IL, to John and Iona Leonard. He was one of six children in his family, along with his two brothers and three sisters. He graduated from Chenoa High School in Chenoa, IL, where he was a four-sport athlete. Following high school, Ken was a 2-year starter for the Hawks of Harper Junior College football team in Palatine, IL, and a 1-year starter for the Trojans of Dakota State University in Madison, SD. Ken then graduated college from Illinois State University, but his career as a player was just the beginning of his legendary legacy.

In 1980, Ken took his first football head coaching job at Gridley High School, in a community of fewer than 2,000 people. A former smalltown kid himself, Ken felt right at home at Gridley, but the school struggled to recruit enough student players to field a football team. And they were forced to shut the program down. This setback, however, did not stop Ken from pursuing his passion for football.

Later that spring, Ken received a call from Sacred Heart-Griffin High School, where he would go on to become the winningest high school football coach in Illinois history.

After 39 seasons with Sacred Heart-Griffin and 43 total seasons coaching high school football, Coach Leonard is set to retire this December. By the time he leaves the locker room for the last time, he will have coached 500 games and taught countless young athletes how to work as a team.

As a parent of Sacred Heart-Griffin alumni and a fan of high school football, I feel lucky to have met Coach

Leonard. Even after my kids graduated, I would catch as many games as I could. I even had the opportunity to attend a celebration for the Cyclones after they won one of their many State championships.

From my visits to Sacred Heart-Griffin, it was evident that Coach Leonard's impressive 419-81 record reflects his deep passion for the sport and tireless dedication to his athletes. If you ask Coach Leonard, he would tell you that he has not worked a day in his life because he loved what he did. And his impact extended well beyond the gridiron.

Coach Leonard did not just coach football; he coached character. His players have gone on to become All-Americans, college football players, and even NFL stars. But Ken knew that life was more than tackles and touchdowns. He believed that what mattered more than developing players was developing good citizens, and he spent as much time in the classroom and chapel as he did on the field and in the weight room.

His coaching style also inspired a legacy. My former staff member's son, Brendan Daly, played for Coach Leonard at Sacred Heart-Griffin. After playing and coaching collegiate football, Brendan joined the ranks of NFL coaches—going onto win three Super Bowl championships with the New England Patriots and another with the Kansas City Chiefs.

Ken's own son, Derek, now coaches at Rochester High School in Rochester, IL, and has already won State championships of his own—sometimes even facing off against his dad. When Ken started coaching against Derek, Ken and I would exchange letters recounting the familial showdowns. Now, it is possible that Derek may one day surpass his Dad's record. And I know Ken will be proud as ever when that day comes.

Despite his long record of accomplishments, Coach Leonard would be the last to take credit for his team's success on the field. Luckily many of his friends and colleagues in the Sacred Heart-Griffin community will be the first to give him the credit he deserves. It is rare for stadiums to be named after people during their lifetime, but in 2017, Sacred Heart-Griffin officials surprised Coach Leonard with a ceremony and announcement that the turf field would, from that point forward, be known as Ken Leonard Field. Standing together with the community and his wife, Liz, in the final year of her life, Coach Ken Leonard was speechless. And today, we in Illinois are thankful.

Ken Leonard is a reminder that committing yourself to what you love will shine a light for those around you. It is an honor to know Ken, as he is an inspiration to so many.

After many accomplishments, including being named the two-time National Coach of the Year and inducted into the Illinois Football Coaches Hall of

Fame, Ken Leonard will retire from coaching Sacred Heart-Griffin's football team on December 31, 2022. In true Ken Leonard fashion, he ended his career by coaching the Cyclones to defeat New Lenox Providence Catholic 44-20 and bring home their sixth State championship.

It is with great pride that I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Coach Ken Leonard. I offer my best wishes and congratulations to both Ken and his family on this important milestone.

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR DUSTIN MONDLOCH

Mr. KING. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize MAJ Dustin Mondloch, U.S. Army, for his outstanding work on behalf of the people of Maine and the Nation as a 2022 Department of Defense Legislative Fellow serving in my Washington, DC, office. Over the past year, Dustin has been integral in shaping my foreign policy and defense priorities. He helped secure a number of provisions in the Fiscal Year 2023 National Defense Authorization Act—FY23 NDAA—that will make our country stronger and safer. Dustin led my staff in orchestrating important appropriations for the Department of Defense, Department of State, Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Coast Guard, and the Office of National Drug Control Policy. His contributions—both to office morale and to our collective work product—are emblematic of his good character, competence, and strong work ethic.

Throughout his tenure in my office, Dustin demonstrated a level of professionalism and hard work I have come to expect—but not take for granted—from Department of Defense Legislative Fellows. Indeed, he follows a long line of accomplished U.S. Navy and Marine Corps officers who have made impactful contributions to my office and to U.S. national security policy. He distinguished himself as the first Army officer to serve in my office, setting a high bar and providing invaluable advice and insights personally to me. Over the course of the year, Dustin prepared and advised me on wide ranging and complex matters under consideration before the Senate Armed Services Committee. He brought his space expertise to assist me in the Strategic Forces Subcommittee briefings and deliberations, that resulted in important funding authorizations and legislation. Dustin's servant leadership showed in his work with constituents and while securing legislation to address Active Duty and veteran suicide. His attention to detail became apparent as he assisted me in dissecting, literally, thousands of pages of the Abbey Gate inspector general investigation. Further, he authored sections of report language, including one of my top concerns regarding the will to fight analysis of foreign militaries by our national security community. In addition,

he became my go-to lead for monitoring the horrific war in Ukraine, providing clear-headed and thoughtful analysis, and liaised with representatives from the White House, State Department, and Department of Defense to convey my positions and concerns. His candor and honest assessments provided critical insights during this fraught time in U.S. history, and our Nation is better because of it.

On behalf of my colleagues and the U.S. Congress, I thank Dustin for his dedicated service to my staff, the State of Maine, the U.S. Army, and the Nation. Part of what makes the U.S. military the greatest in the history of the world is that servicemembers like Dustin dedicate their lives to service and sacrifice for their country. Major Mondloch does not do it alone, so I also acknowledge the support of his family—his wife Danielle, his son Cole, and his daughter Lennox. I wish them all the best on what I know is a bright future.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO BILL COTTER

• Mrs. HYDE-SMITH. Mr. President, I am pleased to commend Mr. Bill Cotter for his service and contributions to the State of Mississippi in his 23 years of service with the Hancock County Port and Harbor Commission.

Bill is retiring as CEO, but his record of leadership with the commission extends well beyond his latest role. In addition to CEO, Bill has served as the director of Stennis International Airport, as well as the chief operations officer for the facility as a whole, which includes the airport, its surrounding commercial property, and the Port Bienville Industrial Park, located on the Pearl River in southwest Mississippi.

While advancing into greater positions of responsibility, Bill's guidance helped the Hancock Port and Harbor Commission meet challenges head-on and achieve enormous success. As airport director, Bill led Stennis Airport's recovery from Hurricane Katrina, and he coordinated the tasks necessary for transitioning the airfield into a disaster response staging area during the BP Deepwater Horizon crisis.

Bill's contributions to the agency are also felt through his project management undertakings. Since 2005, Bill has overseen nearly \$40 million in capital improvements at Stennis International Airport, which have proved invaluable in enabling the facility to serve as a resource in meeting the aviation needs of both the military, businesses, and industry.

The Port and Harbor Commission's maritime business has also thrived under Bill's leadership. During his tenure as chief operating officer, existing docks at Port Bienville were refurbished and improved, and construction is underway on a new 600-foot dock.

The Hancock Port and Harbor Commission has consistently fulfilled its economic development mission, and Bill is a big reason why. Through his efforts, numerous companies have located on commission properties, including the U.S. Department of Defense contractor Tyonek Service Group, which performs a wide range of aircraft service operations and has been a vital catalyst in the success of the Stennis International Airport in attracting and serving military customers.

In conclusion, the value provided by Hancock Port and Harbor Commission has been made more appealing through Bill's leadership and hard work. The resulting economic growth and development is felt on multiple layers throughout Hancock County and has brought about a quality of life revered by residents and visitors alike.

With his retirement from the Hancock County Port and Harbor Commission, I thank Bill Cotter for his long and dedicated service to Hancock County, my State, and our Nation. I wish him a retirement filled with opportunities for him and his wife to spend time with their children and grandchildren.●

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL PAUL TAYLOR

● Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, today I want to recognize and pay tribute to a remarkable Kansan: retired U.S. Army COL Paul Taylor of Overland Park. Paul was recently awarded ZERO's 2022 Prostate Cancer Veterans Advocacy Award for his leadership in improving prostate cancer outcomes for veterans impacted by this disease.

Paul was first diagnosed with stage IV prostate cancer in 2012 at the age of 41 while preparing for deployment to Afghanistan. As is too often the case, he did not experience any notable symptoms warning of the disease. It was a routine predeployment medical screening that saved his life.

Unfortunately, Paul's story is not rare. With nearly 489,000 patients suffering from prostate cancer, this is one of the most common cancer diagnoses among American veterans. In fact, one in five veterans will develop prostate cancer in his lifetime.

With the support and encouragement of his superiors, Paul retained his command of 700 soldiers throughout his medical treatment consisting of hormone therapy, chemotherapy and surgery. He later retired from the Army and continued to serve his country in emergency management roles throughout regional and national crises.

Paul's cancer is now under control with treatment and is closely monitored. He credits his family and patient support groups for their care and encouragement throughout his cancer journey. They have been meaningful sources of emotional support and mentorship as he underwent treatment for the disease.

For those facing similar health challenges, he encourages them to find a

community to offer support and hope throughout the journey. He embodied this principle himself by choosing to sacrifice his own time and talents to help those facing prostate cancer.

Even as Paul battled this terrible disease himself, he dedicated his life to fighting prostate cancer through volunteer leadership to help all who suffer from this disease—but especially veterans.

Today, Paul lives in Overland Park, KS, with his wife Amy and three daughters. He is an active and dedicated advocate for veterans who suffer from prostate cancer.

His efforts have been instrumental in the progress of S. 2720, the Veterans' Prostate Cancer Treatment and Research Act. This legislation creates a clinical pathway for prostate cancer in the Department of Veterans Affairs and helps thousands of veterans manage their prostate cancer treatment process.

On behalf of the U.S. Senate, it is my honor to recognize Paul Taylor for his courage, sacrifice, and determination as he now offers hope and support to the nearly 3.1 million men living with prostate cancer in the United States.●

RECOGNIZING THE HARKNESS HOTEL

● Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, as a member and former chairman of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each month I recognize and celebrate the American entrepreneurial spirit by highlighting the success of a small business in my home State of Idaho. Today, I am pleased to honor the Harkness Hotel as the Idaho Small Business of the Month for December 2022.

Aaron and Arianne Hunsaker opened the Harkness Hotel in July 2014. The Harkness Hotel was a personal project for the couple, who decided to move from Washington, DC, back to Aaron's home State and open a luxury hotel after they stayed in a memorable but mediocre establishment for their honeymoon.

They searched statewide for a historic building to renovate, before finally purchasing the old McCammon Investment Company in 2013. Built in 1906, the McCammon Investment Company was located less than a block away from the original Harkness Hotel, lost in a fire over 100 years ago. The Hunsakers drew inspiration from the legacy of the Harkness Hotel and set out to transform the old bank—which included apartments, a general mercantile store, and a post office—into an award-winning boutique hotel.

The Harkness Hotel blends the historic beauty of the past with modern comforts with an on-site spa and salon for the enjoyment of residents and visitors. Both ran and designed by the Hunsaker family, the Harkness Hotel serves as a symbol of pride for the McCammon community and highlights Idaho's natural beauty and genuine hospitality.

Congratulations to the Hunsakers and all of the employees at the Harkness Hotel for being selected as the Idaho Small Business of the Month for December 2022. Thank you for serving Idaho as small business owners and entrepreneurs. You make our great State proud, and I look forward to your continued growth and success.●

RECOGNIZING JEWISH FAMILY SERVICE

● Mr. ROMNEY. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Jewish Family Service on their remarkable sesquicentennial celebration, an organization whose spirited generosity and longstanding charity continues to benefit the health and well-being of our Utah communities.

Over two decades before Utah statehood, a group of Jewish women founded the Hebrew Women's Benevolent Society in 1872. During this time, many families journeyed West to escape persecution and build new lives, often with little to no resources. With open arms, the Hebrew Women's Benevolent Society welcomed new arrivals at their most vulnerable and ensured that their critical needs were met.

The organization abides by the same selfless mission today as Jewish Family Service, still grounded in the traditional values of tikkun olam, kavod, and tzedek—repair the world, honor, and justice. These values translate into action while the group runs food pantries, provides senior care, and offers mental health counseling to anyone in need, regardless of religious affiliation or financial means.

Today, we recognize and thank Jewish Family Service for their outstanding and indelible impact on Utahns as they continue to inspire us to turn outward and serve our brothers and sisters.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Roberts, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

In executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:31 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, without amendment:

S. 2796. An act to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to

provide for the eligibility of rural community response pilot programs for funding under the Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Grant Program, and for other purposes.

S. 3499. An act to amend the Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act of 2006 to repeal certain obsolete requirements, and for other purposes.

S. 3875. An act to require the President to develop and maintain products that show the risk of natural hazards across the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 4052. An act to reauthorize a program for early detection, diagnosis, and treatment regarding deaf and hard-of-hearing newborns, infants, and young children, and for other purposes.

S. 4834. An act to reauthorize the National Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force Program.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 7946. An act to provide benefits for noncitizen members of the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

H.R. 8844. An act to reauthorize the State Trade Expansion Program of the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that the House agreed to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 3462) to require an annual report on the cybersecurity of the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House agreed to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 5796) to amend title 35, United States Code, to establish a competition to award certificates that can be redeemed to accelerate certain matters at the Patent and Trademark Office, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that the House passed the following bill, with an amendment, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

S. 1687. An act to amend section 21 of the Small Business Act to require cyber certification for small business development center counselors, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 7946. An act to provide benefits for noncitizen members of the Armed Forces, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 8844. An act to reauthorize the State Trade Expansion Program of the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-5670. A communication from the Archivist of the United States, National Archives and Records Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Administration's Agency Financial Report for fiscal year 2022; to

the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5671. A communication from the Administrator, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the cost of response and recovery efforts for FEMA-3584-EM in the State of Florida having exceeded the \$5,000,000 limit for a single emergency declaration; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5672. A communication from the Director, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Acquisition Regulation; FAR Case 2020-013, Certification of Women-Owned Small Businesses" (RIN9000-AO17) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 1, 2022; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5673. A communication from the Director, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Acquisition Regulation; FAR Case 2018-020, Construction Contract Administration" (RIN9000-AN78) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 1, 2022; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5674. A communication from the Director, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Acquisition Regulation; FAR Case 2019-007, Update of Historically Underutilized Business Zone Program" (RIN9000-AN90) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 1, 2022; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5675. A communication from the Director, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Acquisition Regulation; FAR Case 2017-019, Policy on Joint Ventures" (RIN9000-AO17) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 1, 2022; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5676. A communication from the Director, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Acquisition Regulation; Federal Acquisition Circular 2022-08, Small Entity Compliance Guide" (RIN9000-AO17) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 1, 2022; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5677. A communication from the Board Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Administration's Semiannual Report of the Inspector General and the Semiannual Management Report on the Status of Audits for the period from April 1, 2022 through September 30, 2022; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5678. A communication from the Chairman, Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the requirements of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5679. A communication from the Board Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Administration's Performance and Accountability Report for fiscal year 2022; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5680. A communication from the Chairman, Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the requirements of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5681. A communication from the Board Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Administration's Performance and Accountability Report for fiscal year 2022; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5682. A communication from the Director, Office of Government Ethics, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Office's Agency Financial Report for fiscal year 2022; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5683. A communication from the Chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Board's Performance and Accountability report for fiscal year 2022; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5684. A communication from the Board Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Administration's Semiannual Report of the Inspector General and the Semiannual Management Report on the Status of Audits for the period from April 1, 2022 through September 30, 2022; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5685. A communication from the President and CEO, Inter-American Foundation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Foundation's Annual Management Report for fiscal year 2022; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5686. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department's Agency Financial Report for fiscal year 2022; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5687. A joint communication from the Chairman and the General Counsel, National Labor Relations Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Office of Inspector General Semiannual Report for the period of April 1, 2022 through September 30, 2022; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5688. A communication from the Director, Office of Administration, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to transactions from the Unanticipated Needs Account for fiscal year 2022; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5689. A communication from the Acting Commissioner, Social Security Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Agency Financial Report for fiscal year 2022; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5690. A communication from the Deputy Associate Administrator for Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Administration's Agency Financial Report for fiscal year 2022; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5691. A communication from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Agency's Agency Financial Report for fiscal year 2022; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5692. A communication from the Secretary of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation's Office of Inspector General's Semiannual Report to Congress and the Pension

Benefit Guaranty Corporation Management's Response for the period from April 1, 2022 through September 30, 2022; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5693. A communication from the Chairman, Federal Maritime Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's Semiannual Report of the Inspector General and a Management Report for the period from April 1, 2022 through September 30, 2022; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5694. A communication from the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department's Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from April 1, 2022 through September 30, 2022; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5695. A communication from the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Agency's Semiannual Report of the Office of Inspector General for the period from April 1, 2022 through September 30, 2022; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5696. A communication from the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from April 1, 2022 through September 30, 2022; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5697. A communication from the Director, Congressional Affairs, Federal Election Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's Agency Financial Report for fiscal year 2022; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5698. A communication from the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Federal Labor Relations Authority, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Authority's Performance and Accountability Report for fiscal year 2022; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5699. A communication from the Chairman and Chief Executive and Administrative Officer, Federal Labor Relations Authority, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Office of Inspector General Semiannual Report for the period of April 1, 2022 through October 31, 2022; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5700. A communication from the Deputy Secretary of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department's Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from April 1, 2022 through September 30, 2022; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5701. A communication from the Inspector General, United States Postal Service, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Postal Services' Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from April 1, 2022 through September 30, 2022; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5702. A communication from the Director, National Science Foundation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Uniform Resource Locator (URL) for the Foundation's fiscal year 2022 Agency Financial Report; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5703. A communication from the Chairman, Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's Performance and Accountability Report for fiscal year 2022; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5704. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs,

Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department's Agency Financial Report for fiscal year 2022 and the Uniform Resource Locator (URL) for the Report; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5705. A communication from the Commissioner, Social Security Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Agency Financial Report for fiscal year 2022; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5706. A communication from the Deputy Chief Financial Officer, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department's Agency Financial Report for fiscal year 2022; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5707. A communication from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Office's Agency Financial Report for fiscal year 2022; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5708. A communication from the Chief of the Border Security Regulations Branch, Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Period of Admission and Extensions of Stay for Representatives of Foreign Information Media Seeking to Enter the United States" (RIN1651-AB49) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 1, 2022; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-5709. A communication from the Agency Representative, Patent and Trademark Office, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Eliminating Continuing Legal Education Certification and Recognition for Patent Practitioners" (RIN0651-AD62) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 21, 2022; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-5710. A communication from the Secretary, Judicial Conference of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Report on the Adequacy of the Rules Prescribed under the E-Government Act of 2002"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-5711. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Energy Conservation Program: Test Procedure for Central Air Conditioners and Heat Pumps" (RIN1904-AF29) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 7, 2022; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-5712. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Energy Conservation Program: Test Procedure for VRF Multi-Split Systems" (RIN1904-AE43) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 7, 2022; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-5713. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Energy Conservation Program: Test Procedure for Electric Motors" (RIN1904-AE62) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 7, 2022; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-5714. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regula-

tion and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Procedures for the Acquisition of Petroleum for the Strategic Petroleum Reserve" (RIN1901-AB56) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 7, 2022; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-5715. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Energy Conservation Program: Energy Conservation Standards for Direct Expansion-Dedicated Outdoor Air Systems" (RIN1904-AD92) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 7, 2022; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-5716. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Energy Conservation Program: Test Procedure for Automatic Commercial Ice Makers" (RIN1904-AD81) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 7, 2022; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-5717. A communication from the General Counsel, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Applied to Complaints Against Oil Pipeline Index Rate Changes Policy Statement" received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 7, 2022; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-5718. A communication from the Administrator and Chief Executive Officer, Bonneville Power Administration, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Administration's Annual Report for fiscal year 2022; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-5719. A communication from the Deputy Chief, National Forest System, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the final maps and perimeter boundary descriptions for the enclosed Wild and Scenic Rivers; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-5720. A communication from the Deputy Chief, National Forest System, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the final maps and perimeter boundary descriptions for the enclosed Wild and Scenic Rivers; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-5721. A communication from the Deputy Chief, National Forest System, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the final maps and perimeter boundary descriptions for the enclosed Wild and Scenic Rivers; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-5722. A communication from the General Counsel, National Indian Gaming Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Self-Regulation of Class II Gaming" (RIN3141-AA72) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 10, 2022; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

EC-5723. A communication from the General Counsel, National Indian Gaming Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Family License Notifications" (RIN3141-AA76) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 10, 2022; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

EC-5724. A communication from the Deputy Secretary of the Interior, transmitting a

legislative proposal relative to establishing a subaccount within the Indian Water Rights Settlement Completion Fund to provide mandatory funding to address the ongoing Operation, Maintenance, and Repair requirements associated with four enacted Indian Water Rights Settlements managed by the Bureau of Reclamation; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

EC-5725. A communication from the Regulation Development Coordinator, Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Delegated Authority to Settle Federal Tort Claims Act Administrative Tort Claims" (RIN2900-AR72) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 27, 2022; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-5726. A communication from the Regulation Development Coordinator, Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "VA Acquisition Regulation: Acquisition Planning; Required Sources of Supplies and Services; Market Research; and Small Business Programs" (RIN2900-AR06) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 27, 2022; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-5727. A communication from the Regulation Development Coordinator, Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Requesting Disinterment of an Eligible Decedent from a National Cemetery" (RIN2900-AR43) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 7, 2022; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-5728. A communication from the Regulation Development Coordinator, Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "VHA Claims and Appeals Modernization" (RIN2900-AQ44) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 7, 2022; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-5729. A communication from the Regulation Development Coordinator, Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Vietnam Era Definition, Medal of Honor Special Pension for Surviving Spouses, and Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) Remarriage Age" (RIN2900-AR70) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 21, 2022; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. PETERS, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 2541. A bill to authorize the reclassification of the tactical enforcement officers (commonly known as the "Shadow Wolves") in the Homeland Security Investigations tactical patrol unit operating on the lands of the Tohono O'odham Nation as special agents (Rept. No. 117-235).

S. 4611. A bill to improve services for trafficking victims by establishing, in Homeland Security Investigations, the Investigators Maintain Purposeful Awareness to Combat Trafficking Trauma Program and the Victim Assistance Program (Rept. No. 117-236).

By Mr. MENENDEZ, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute and with an amended preamble:

S. Con. Res. 16. A concurrent resolution commemorating the 30th anniversary of Operation Provide Comfort.

By Mr. MENENDEZ, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute and with a preamble:

S. Con. Res. 47. A concurrent resolution commending the bravery, courage, and resolve of the women and men of Iran demonstrating in more than 80 cities and risking their safety to speak out against the Iranian regime's human rights abuses.

By Mr. MENENDEZ, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute and an amendment to the title and with an amended preamble:

S. Res. 322. A resolution reaffirming the alliance between the United States and Bulgaria, congratulating Bulgaria on its July 11, 2021 parliamentary elections, and calling for continued progress in Bulgaria towards combating corruption, respecting the freedom of the press, and protecting minority rights.

By Mr. MENENDEZ, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute and with a preamble:

S. Res. 472. A resolution reaffirming the partnership between the United States and the Dominican Republic and advancing opportunities to deepen diplomatic, economic, and security cooperation between the two nations.

By Mr. MENENDEZ, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute and an amendment to the title and with an amended preamble:

S. Res. 650. A resolution recognizing May 28 as "World Hunger Day", that the 90th anniversary of the Ukrainian Famine of 1932-1933, known as the Holodomor, should serve as a reminder of repressive Soviet policies against the people of Ukraine, and that Vladimir Putin's illegal war against Ukraine has diminished Ukraine's agricultural output and threatens to exacerbate the problems of global hunger on World Hunger Day.

By Mr. MENENDEZ, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute and with an amended preamble:

S. Res. 713. A resolution recognizing Russian actions in Ukraine as a genocide.

By Mr. MENENDEZ, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute and with a preamble:

S. Res. 730. A resolution remembering the 30th anniversary of the bombing of the Embassy of Israel in Buenos Aires on March 17, 1992, the 28th anniversary of the bombing of the Argentine-Israeli Mutual Association building in Buenos Aires on July 18, 1994, and recommitting to efforts to uphold justice for the victims of the attacks.

By Ms. CANTWELL, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 2333. A bill to amend chapter 2205 of title 36, United States Code, to ensure equal treatment of athletes, and for other purposes.

S. 2427. A bill to require the Federal Communications Commission to conduct a study and submit to Congress a report examining the feasibility of funding the Universal Service Fund through contributions supplied by edge providers, and for other purposes.

S. 3014. A bill to establish the Next Generation Telecommunications Council, and for other purposes.

S. 3053. A bill to amend the Weather Research and Forecasting Innovation Act of

2017 to require the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to develop a plan and national guidance document to improve precipitation estimates, and for other purposes.

S. 3196. A bill to enhance the policies, procedures, and training for midshipmen at the United States Merchant Marine Academy, and for other purposes.

S. 3290. A bill to establish a National Manufacturing Extension Partnership Supply Chain Database, and for other purposes.

By Mr. MENENDEZ, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 3386. A bill to prevent, treat, and cure tuberculosis globally.

S. 4064. A bill to facilitate the development of a whole-of-government strategy for nuclear cooperation and nuclear exports.

S. 4509. A bill to provide for security in the Black Sea region, and for other purposes.

S. 4955. A bill to amend certain authorities relating to human rights violations and abuses in Ukraine, and for other purposes.

S. 4996. A bill to amend the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020 to modify the establishment of a coordinator for detained ISIS members and relevant displaced populations in Syria, and for other purposes.

By Mr. MENENDEZ, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, without amendment:

H.R. 7240. An act to reauthorize the READ Act.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. MENENDEZ for the Committee on Foreign Relations.

Cynthia Dyer, of Virginia, to be Director of the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking, with the rank of Ambassador at Large.

Nominee: Cynthia Dyer.

Post: Director of the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking, with rank of Ambassador at Large.

(The following is a list of members of my immediate family. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:

1. Self: \$10, 8/11/19, ACT BLUE.
2. Spouse: \$50, 4/5/20, ACT BLUE; \$50, 6/1/20, ACT BLUE; \$5, 6/1/20, ACT BLUE; \$100, 9/30/19, ACT BLUE; \$10, 8/11/19, ACT BLUE.

Rachna Sachdeva Korhonen, of New Jersey, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Mali.

Nominee: Rachna Sachdeva Korhonen.

Post: Mali.

(The following is a list of members of my immediate family. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:

N/A.

Joey R. Hood, of New Hampshire, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Tunisia.

Nominee: Joey R. Hood.
Post: Republic of Tunisia.

(The following is a list of members of my immediate family. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:
Anne Lompo: \$0.
Fiona Hood (18): \$0.
Henry Hood (15): \$0.

Kathleen Ann Kavalec, of California, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Romania.

Nominee: Kathleen Ann Kavalec.
Post: Romania.

(The following is a list of members of my immediate family. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:
Kathleen Kavalec—None.
Mark Taplin, spouse—None.

Jessica Davis Ba, of the District of Columbia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire.

Nominee: Jessica David Ba.
Post: Cote d'Ivoire.

(The following is a list of members of my immediate family. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:
1. Self: None.
2. Spouse: Amadou Mahtar Ba: None.

Kenneth Merten, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Career Minister, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Bulgaria.

Nominee: Kenneth Merten.
Post: Sofia, Bulgaria.

(The following is a list of members of my immediate family. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:
None.

Julie D. Fisher, of Tennessee, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Cyprus.

Nominee: Julie D. Fisher.
Post: Republic of Cyprus.

(The following is a list of members of my immediate family. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:
1. Self: None.
2. Spouse: None.

Christopher T. Robinson, of Maryland, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary

of the United States of America to the Republic of Latvia.

Nominee: Christopher Todd Robinson.
Post: Republic of Latvia.

(The following is a list of members of my immediate family. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:
Christopher Todd Robinson: None.
Donka Todorov Robinson: None.

Stephanie Sanders Sullivan, of Maryland, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Career Minister, to be Representative of the United States of America to the African Union, with the rank and status of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary.

Nominee: Stephanie Sanders Sullivan.
Post: US Mission to the African Union.

(The following is a list of members of my immediate family. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:
Myself: None.

John Henry Sullivan (husband): Cash, \$200, 06/09/2022, Pennsylvania Democratic Party; Cash, \$200, 08/29/2021, Pennsylvania Democratic Party; Cash, \$50, 10/25/2020, Democratic National Committee; Cash, \$50, 09/29/2020, Act Blue (Biden for President); Cash, \$50, 08/05/2020, Democratic National Committee; In Kind (Volunteer work), 40 hours, Oct/Nov 2020, Pennsylvania Democrats (Democratic Party/Biden campaign).

Lucy Tamlyn, of Rhode Island, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Nominee: Lucy Tamlyn.
Post: Democratic Republic of Congo.

(The following is a list of members of my immediate family. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:
0, 0, N/A, Lucy Tamlyn.
0, 0, N/A, Jorge M. Serpa.

Manuel P. Micaller, Jr., of California, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Tajikistan.

Nominee: Manuel P. Micaller, Jr.
Post: Dushanbe, Tajikistan.

(The following is a list of members of my immediate family. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:
None.

Kristina A. Kvien, of California, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Armenia.

Nominee: Kristina Alyson Kvien.
Post: Republic of Armenia.

(The following is a list of members of my immediate family. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent con-

tributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:
Thomas White: \$120, 4/27/2020, ActBlue.

Henry V. Jardine, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Mauritius, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Seychelles.

Nominee: Henry Victor Jardine.

Post: Republic of Mauritius and the Republic of Seychelles.

(The following is a list of members of my immediate family. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:
Henry V. Jardine: None.
Kathleen Jardine (Spouse): None.

Bijan Sabet, of Massachusetts, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Czech Republic.

Nominee: Bijan Joseph Sabet.

Post: U.S. Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the Czech Republic.

(The following is a list of members of my immediate family. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Donee: Bijan Sabet:

Organization, joint fund recipient, donation amount, and donation date: Swing Left, \$1,000.00, 2/16/2018; ACTBLUE, Contribution to ACTBLUE, \$100.00, 2/16/2018; ACTBLUE (Earmarked for Swing Left (C00632133), \$160.00, 3/4/2018; Swing Left, \$160.00, 3/4/2018; ACTBLUE Texas, \$125.00, 7/4/2018; Rosen Victory Fund, \$1,000.00, 7/16/2018; Rosen for Nevada \$1,000.00, 7/22/2018; ACTBLUE, Contribution to ACTBLUE, \$100.00, 7/16/2018; Sharice for Congress, \$214.29, 8/11/2018; Amy McGrath for Congress, \$214.29, 8/11/2018; Cindy Axne for Congress, \$214.28, 8/11/2018; BRENDAN KELLY for Southern Illinois, \$214.29, 8/11/2018; Spanberger for Congress, \$214.29, 8/11/2018; Gina Ortiz Jones for Congress, \$214.28, 8/11/2018; Finkenauer for Congress, \$214.28, 8/11/2018; Committee to Elect Jared Golden, \$214.29, 8/11/2018; Haley Stevens for Congress, \$214.29, 8/11/2018; Josh Harder for Congress, \$214.28, 8/11/2018; Eastman for Congress, \$214.29, 8/11/2018; Swing Left, Earmarked for Dean Phillips for Congress, \$214.29, 8/20/2018; Dean Phillips for Congress, \$214.29, 8/20/2018; Swing Left, Earmarked for Dr. Kim Schrier for Congress, \$214.28, 8/20/2018; Dr. Kim Schrier for Congress, \$214.28, 8/20/2018; Swing Left, Earmarked for FL-18 Democratic Nominee, \$214.28, 8/20/2018; Lauren Baer for Congress, \$214.28, 8/20/2018; Dean Phillips for Congress, \$335.02, 8/23/2018; Sharice for Congress, \$335.01, 8/23/2018; Amy McGrath for Congress, \$335.02, 8/23/2018; Cindy Axne for Congress, \$335.01, 8/23/2018; Elect Carolyn Long, \$335.01, 8/23/2018; Brendan Kelly for Southern Illinois, \$335.01, 8/23/2018; Spanberger for Congress, \$335.01, 8/23/2018; Gina Ortiz Jones for Congress, \$335.01, 8/23/2018; Dr. Kim Schrier for Congress, \$335.01, 8/23/2018; Finkenauer for Congress, \$335.02, 8/23/2018; Committee to Elect Jared Golden, \$335.01, 8/23/2018; Haley Stevens for Congress, \$335.02, 8/23/2018; Josh Harder for Congress, \$335.02, 8/23/2018; Eastman for Congress, \$335.02, 8/23/2018; Swing Left, Earmarked for

FL-18 Democratic Nominee, \$335.02, 8/31/2018; Lauren Baer for Congress, \$335.02, 8/31/2018; George Scott for Congress, \$372.52, 9/1/2018; Dean Phillips for Congress, \$372.53, 9/1/2018; Sharice for Congress, \$372.53, 9/1/2018; Amy McGrath for Congress, \$372.53, 9/1/2018; Radinovich for Congress, \$372.53, 9/1/2018; Cindy Axne for Congress, \$372.53, 9/1/2018; Elect Carolyn Long, \$372.53, 9/1/2018; Brendan Kelly for Southern Illinois, \$372.53, 9/1/2018; Spanberger for Congress, \$372.53, 9/1/2018; Gina Ortiz Jones for Congress, \$372.53, 9/1/2018; Dr. Kim Schrier for Congress, \$372.53, 9/1/2018; Lauren Baer for Congress, \$372.53, 9/1/2018; Finkenaue for Congress, \$372.53, 9/1/2018; Committee to Elect Jared Golden, \$372.53, 9/1/2018; Haley Stevens for Congress, \$372.53, 9/1/2018; Josh Harder for Congress, \$372.53, 9/1/2018; Eastman for Congress, \$372.53, 9/1/2018; ACTBLUE, Earmarked for Mike Levin for Congress (C00634253), \$31.25, 10/11/2018; ACTBLUE, Earmarked for Susan Wild for Congress (C00658567), \$31.25, 10/11/2018; ACTBLUE, Earmarked for Wexton for Congress (C00638023), \$31.25, 10/11/2018; ACTBLUE, Earmarked for Harder for Congress (C00639146), \$31.25, 10/11/2018; Josh Harder for Congress, \$31.25, 10/11/2018; Actblue, Earmarked for Colin Allred for Congress (C00637868) \$31.25, 10/11/2018; Actblue Earmarked for Jason Crow for Congress (C00637363), \$31.25 10/11/2018; Actblue, Elizabeth Pannill Fletcher for Congress (C00640045), \$31.25, 10/11/2018; Actblue, Earmarked for Rosen for Nevada (C00606939), \$31.25, 10/11/2018; Rosen for Nevada \$31.25, 10/11/2018; Kamala Harris for the People, \$1,000.00 5/6/2019; Cory 2020, \$2,800.00, 5/7/2019; Doug Jones for Senate Committee, \$250.00, 6/22/2019; Actblue, Contribution to Actblue, \$25.00, 6/22/2019; Actblue, Earmarked for Democratic Nominee for GA-, held Pursuant to Aos 1977-16 and 1982-23, \$62.50, 6/29/2019; Actblue Earmarked for Democratic Nominee for IA-, held Pursuant to Aos 1977-16 and 1982-23, \$62.50, 6/29/2019; Actblue, Earmarked for Democratic Nominee for TX-, held Pursuant to Aos 1977-16 and 1982-23, \$62.50, 6/29/2019; Actblue, Earmarked for Democratic Nominee for CO-, held Pursuant to Aos 1977-16 and 1982-23, \$62.50, 6/29/2019; Hickenlooper for Colorado, \$62.50, 6/29/2019; Actblue Earmarked for Democratic Nominee For AZ-, held Pursuant to Aos 1977-16 and 1982-23 \$62.50, 6/29/2019; Mark Kelly for Senate, \$62.50, 6/29/2019; Actblue, Earmarked for Democratic Nominee for KY-, held Pursuant to Aos 1977-16 and 1982-23, \$62.50, 6/29/2019; Amy McGrath for Senate, Inc., \$62.50, 6/29/2019; Actblue, Earmarked for Democratic Nominee for NC-, held Pursuant to Aos 1977-16 and 1982-23, \$62.50 6/29/2019; Actblue, Earmarked for Democratic Nominee for ME-, held Pursuant to Aos 1977-16 and 1982-23, \$62.50, 6/29/2019; Sara Gideon for Maine \$62.50, 6/29/2019; Amy McGrath for Senate, \$500.00, 7/29/2019; Amy McGrath for Senate, \$500.00, 7/29/2019; Biden for President, \$2,800.00, 8/6/2019; Warren for President, Inc. \$2,000.00, 9/18/2019; Actblue, Contribution to Actblue, \$200.00, 9/18/2019; Warren for President, Inc., \$800.00, 10/1/2019; Warren for President, Inc., \$200.00, 10/1/2019; Warren for President, -\$200.00, 5/5/2020; Actblue, Contribution to Actblue, \$100.00, 1/27/2020; Pronym, \$1,000.00, 1/27/2020; Arati for Congress, \$500.00, 2/9/2020; Biden for President, \$500.00, 3/1/2020; Biden for President, \$1,000.00, 3/1/2020; Actblue, Contribution to Actblue, \$50.00 3/1/2020; Actblue, Earmarked for Democratic Nominee for CO-, held Pursuant to Aos 1977-16 and 1982-23, \$100.00, 3/5/2020; Hickenlooper for Colorado, \$100.00, 3/5/2020; Actblue, Earmarked for Democratic Nominee for ME-, held Pursuant to Aos 1977-16 and 1982-23, \$100.00, 3/5/2020; Sara Gideon for Maine, \$100.00, 3/5/2020;

Actblue, Earmarked for Democratic Nominee for AK-, held Pursuant to Aos 1977-16 and 1982-23, \$100.00, 3/5/2020; Dr. Al Gross for U.S. Senate, \$100.00, 3/5/2020; Actblue, Earmarked for Doug Jones for US Senate (C00640623), \$100.00, 3/5/2020; Doug Jones for Senate Committee, \$100.00, 3/5/2020; Actblue, Earmarked for Democratic Nominee for AZ-, held Pursuant to Aos 1977-16 and 1982-23, \$100.00, 3/5/2020; Mark Kelly for Senate, \$100.00, 3/5/2020; Actblue, Earmarked for Democratic Nominee for GA-, held Pursuant to Aos 1977-16 and 1982-23, \$100.00, 3/5/2020; Actblue, Earmarked for Democratic Nominee for TX-, held Pursuant to Aos 1977-16 and 1982-23, \$100.00, 3/5/2020; Actblue, Earmarked for Democratic Nominee for IA-, held Pursuant to Aos 1977-16 and 1982-23, \$100.00, 3/5/2020; Actblue, Contribution to Actblue, \$100.00, 3/5/2020; Actblue, Earmarked for Democratic nOMINEE FOR SC-, held Pursuant to Aos 1977-16 and 1982-23, \$100.00, 3/5/2020; Actblue, Earmarked for Democratic Nominee for KY-, held Pursuant to Aos 1977-16 and 1982-23, \$100.00, 3/5/2020; Amy McGrath for Senate, Inc., \$100.00, 3/5/2020; Dnc Services Corp Democratic National Committee, \$35,500.00, 4/14/2020; Dnc Services Corp Democratic National Committee, \$1,153.95, 4/14/2020; Biden Victory Fund, \$25,000.00, 5/7/2020; Biden for President, \$1,300.00, 5/7/2020; Sara Gideon for Maine, \$2,800.00, 5/21/2020; Hickenlooper for Colorado, \$2,800.00, 5/21/2020; Fair Fight \$1,000.00, 6/1/2020; Sara Gideon for Maine, \$500.00, 7/17/2020; Scholten for Congress, \$2,800.00, 7/18/2020; Actblue, Earmarked for Cal for NC (C00709410), \$62.50, 7/19/2020; Cal for NC, \$62.50, 7/19/2020; Actblue, Earmarked for Hickenlooper for Colorado (C00716720), \$62.50, 7/19/2020; Hickenlooper for Colorado, \$62.50, 7/19/2020; Actblue, Earmarked for Theresa Greenfield for Iowa (C00708164), \$62.50, 7/19/2020; Theresa Greenfield for Iowa, \$62.50, 7/19/2020; Actblue, Earmarked for Mark Kelly for Senate (C00696526), \$62.50, 7/19/2020; Actblue, Earmarked for Democratic Nominee For GA-, held Pursuant to Aos 1977-16 and 1982-23, \$62.50, 7/19/2020; Actblue, Earmarked for Montanans for Bullock (C00741611), \$62.50, 7/19/2020; ACTBLUE, Earmarked for Sara Gideon for Maine (C00709899), \$62.50, 7/19/2020; Sara Gideon for Maine, \$62.50, 7/19/2020; ACTBLUE, Earmarked for Jon Ossoff for Senate (C00718866), \$62.50, 7/19/2020; Jon Ossoff for Senate, \$62.50, 7/19/2020; Biden Victory Fund, \$25,000.00, 7/19/2020; Arizona Democratic Party, \$1,666.67, 7/19/2020; North Carolina Democratic Party—Federal, \$1,666.67, 7/19/2020; Georgia Federal Elections Committee, \$1,666.67, 7/19/2020; Nevada State Democratic Party, \$1,666.67, 7/19/2020; Colorado Democratic Party, \$1,666.67, 7/19/2020; Pennsylvania Democratic Party, \$1,666.66, 7/19/2020; Minnesota Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party, \$1,666.67, 7/19/2020; Democratic Party of Virginia, \$1,666.66, 7/19/2020; Democratic Executive Committee of Florida, \$1,666.67, 7/19/2020; Nebraska Democratic Party, \$1,666.67, 7/19/2020; Democratic Party of Wisconsin, \$1,666.66, 7/19/2020; Jaime Harrison for US Senate, \$2,800.00, 7/20/2020; Biden Victory Fund, \$10,000.00, 8/4/2020; Democratic Party of Virginia, \$714.28, 8/4/2020; Ohio Democratic Party, \$714.28, 8/4/2020; Nebraska Democratic Party, \$714.28, 8/4/2020; Texas Democratic Party, \$714.28, 8/4/2020; Sara Gideon for Maine, \$1,000.00, 8/6/2020; Biden Victory Fund, \$55.76, 8/7/2020; Democratic Party of Virginia, \$3.98, 8/7/2020; Ohio Democratic Party, \$3.98, 8/7/2020; Nebraska Democratic Party, \$3.98, 8/7/2020; Texas Democratic Party, \$3.98, 8/7/2020; Texas Democratic Party, \$3.98, 8/7/2020; Biden Victory Fund, \$1,000.00, 8/12/2020; Democratic Party of Virginia, \$71.42, 8/16/2020; Ohio Democratic Party, \$71.43, 8/16/2020; Nebraska Democratic Party, \$71.43, 8/16/2020; Texas Democratic Party, \$71.43, 8/16/2020; Texas

Democratic Party, \$71.43, 8/16/2020; Biden Victory Fund, \$10,000.00, 8/17/2020; Democratic Party of Virginia, \$714.28, 8/17/2020; Ohio Democratic Party, \$714.28, 8/17/2020; Texas Democratic Party, \$714.28, 8/17/2020; North Carolina Democratic Party—Federal, \$703.72, 8/20/2020; Arizona Democratic Party, \$703.72, 8/20/2020; Nevada State Democratic Party, \$703.72, 8/20/2020; Biden Victory Fund, \$25,000.00, 8/20/2020; Georgia Federal Elections Committee, \$703.72, 8/20/2020; Pennsylvania Democratic Party, \$703.71, 8/20/2020; Minnesota Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party, \$703.72, 8/20/2020; Democratic Party of Virginia, \$3,228.37, 8/20/2020; Ohio Democratic Party, \$3,228.38, 8/20/2020; Democratic Executive Committee of Florida, \$703.72, 8/20/2020; Democratic Party of Wisconsin, \$703.71, 8/20/2020; Texas Democratic Party, \$3,228.37, 8/20/2020; MJ for Texas, \$2,800.00, 8/24/2020; Biden Victory Fund, \$5,000.00, 9/1/2020; North Carolina Democratic Party—Federal, \$333.33, 9/1/2020; Arizona Democratic Party, \$333.34, 9/1/2020; Georgia Federal Elections Committee, \$333.34, 9/1/2020; Pennsylvania Democratic Party, \$333.33, 9/1/2020; Colorado Democratic Party, \$375.00, 9/1/2020; Minnesota Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party, \$375.00, 9/1/2020; Democratic Party Of Virginia, \$374.99, 9/1/2020; Ohio Democratic Party, \$375.00, 9/1/2020; Democratic Executive Committee Of Florida, \$333.34, 9/1/2020; Nebraska Democratic Party, \$375.00, 9/1/2020; Democratic Party Of Wisconsin, \$333.33, 9/1/2020; Texas Democratic Party, \$375.00, 9/1/2020; Texas Democratic Party, \$375.00, 9/1/2020; Nevada State Democratic Party, \$375.00, 9/1/2020; Biden Victory Fund, \$2,800.00, 9/4/2020; North Carolina Democratic Party—Federal, \$186.67, 9/4/2020; Arizona Democratic Party, \$186.67, 9/4/2020; Georgia Federal Elections Committee, \$186.67, 9/4/2020; Pennsylvania Democratic Party, \$186.67, 9/4/2020; Colorado Democratic Party, \$210.00, 9/4/2020; Minnesota Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party, \$210.00, 9/4/2020; Democratic Party of Virginia, \$210.00, 9/4/2020; Ohio Democratic Party, \$210.00, 9/4/2020; Nebraska Democratic Party, \$210.00, 9/4/2020; Democratic Executive Committee of Florida, \$186.67, 9/4/2020; Democratic Party of Wisconsin, \$186.66, 9/4/2020; Texas Democratic Party, \$210.00, 9/4/2020; Texas Democratic Party, \$210.00, 9/4/2020; Nevada State Democratic Party, \$210.00, 9/4/2020; Bullock Victory Fund, \$5,600.00, 9/5/2020; Montana Democratic Party, \$2,800.00, 9/5/2020; Montanans For Bullock, \$2,800.00, 9/5/2020; Biden Victory Fund, \$5,600.00, 9/5/2020; North Carolina Democratic Party—Federal, \$373.33, 9/6/2020; Arizona Democratic Party, \$373.34, 9/6/2020; Georgia Federal Elections Committee, \$373.34, 9/6/2020; Pennsylvania Democratic Party, \$373.33, 9/6/2020; Colorado Democratic Party, \$420.00, 9/6/2020; Minnesota Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party, \$420.00, 9/6/2020; Democratic Party of Virginia, \$419.99, 9/6/2020; Ohio Democratic Party, \$420.00, 9/6/2020; Nebraska Democratic Party, \$420.00, 9/6/2020; Democratic Executive Committee of Florida, \$373.34, 9/6/2020; Democratic Party of Wisconsin, \$373.33, 9/6/2020; Texas Democratic Party, \$420.00, 9/6/2020; Texas Democratic Party, \$420.00, 9/6/2020; Nevada State Democratic Party, \$420.00, 9/6/2020; Biden Victory Fund, \$50,000.00, 9/8/2020; North Carolina Democratic Party—Federal, \$3,333.33, 9/8/2020; Arizona Democratic Party, \$3,333.34, 9/8/2020; Georgia Federal Elections Committee, \$3,333.34, 9/8/2020; Pennsylvania Democratic Party, \$3,333.33, 9/8/2020; Colorado Democratic Party, \$2,595.95, 9/8/2020; Minnesota Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party, \$3,749.99, 9/8/2020; Democratic Party of Virginia, \$2,596.03, 9/8/2020; Ohio Democratic Party, \$2,595.99, 9/8/2020; Nebraska Democratic Party, \$2,595.96, 9/8/2020; Democratic Executive Committee of Florida, \$3,333.34, 9/8/2020; Democratic Party

of Wisconsin, \$3,333.33, 9/8/2020; Texas Democratic Party, \$2,596.00, 9/8/2020; Nevada State Democratic Party, \$3,749.99, 9/8/2020; Michigan Democratic State Central Committee, \$1,666.67, 9/9/2020; Michigan Democratic State Central Committee, \$703.72, 9/15/2020; Michigan Democratic State Central Committee, \$333.34, 9/15/2020; Michigan Democratic State Central Committee, \$186.67, 9/15/2020; Michigan Democratic State Central Committee, \$373.34, 9/15/2020; Michigan Democratic State Central Committee, \$333.34, 9/15/2020; Michigan Democratic State Central Committee, \$714.29, 10/15/2020; Michigan Democratic State Central Committee, \$3.98, 10/15/2020; Michigan Democratic State Central Committee, \$71.43, 10/15/2020; Michigan Democratic State Central Committee, \$714.29, 10/15/2020; Doug Jones for Senate Committee, \$384.62, 9/18/2020; Dr. Al Gross for U.S. Senate, \$384.62, 9/18/2020; MJ for Texas, \$384.62, 9/18/2020; Jaime Harrison for US Senate, \$384.62, 9/18/2020; Jon Ossoff for Senate, \$384.61 9/18/2020; Cal for NC, \$384.61, 9/18/2020; Peters for Michigan, \$384.61, 9/18/2020; Sara Gideon for Maine, \$384.61, 9/18/2020; Hickenlooper for Colorado, \$384.62, 9/18/2020; Bollier for Kansas, \$384.62, 9/18/2020; Montanans for Bullock, \$384.61, 9/18/2020; Warnock for Georgia, \$384.61, 9/18/2020; Theresa Greenfield for Iowa, \$384.62, 9/21/2020; New Hampshire Democratic Party, \$10,000.00, 10/1/2020; Doug Jones for Senate Committee, \$1,000.00, 10/19/2020; Ohio Democratic Party, \$1,000.00, 10/19/2020; Democratic Executive Committee of Florida, \$1,000.00, 10/22/2020; Democratic Executive Committee of Florida, \$1,000.00, 10/26/2020; Scholten for Congress, \$1,000.00, 10/30/2020; People's Action Power, \$1,000.00, 10/30/2020; Biden Fight Fund, \$1,000.00, 11/4/2020; DNC Services Corp/Democratic National Committee, \$1,000.00, 11/4/2020; Biden Fight Fund, \$200.00, 11/5/2020; DNC Services Corp/Democratic National Committee, \$200.00, 11/5/2020; Pennsylvania Democratic Party, \$200.00, 11/5/2020; Democratic Party of Wisconsin, \$200.00, 11/5/2020; Michigan Democratic State Central Committee, \$200.00, 11/5/2020; Fair Fight, \$2,500.00, 11/6/2020; Warnock for Georgia, \$2,800.00, 11/8/2020; Georgia Federal Elections Committee, \$200.00, 11/9/2020; Biden Fight Fund, \$2,800.00, 11/11/2020; DNC Services Corp/Democratic National Committee, \$2,800.00, 11/11/2020; Defeat by Tweet, \$2,000.00, 11/12/2020; Georgia Senate Victory Fund, \$15,600.00, 11/14/2020; Georgia Federal Elections Committee, \$10,000.00, 11/15/2020; Jon Ossoff for Senate, \$2,800.00, 11/15/2020; Georgia Senate Victory Fund, \$15,000.00, 11/30/2020; Presidential Inaugural Committee, \$250,000.00, 1/1/2021; Build Back Together, \$50,000.00, 1/1/2021; Booker Victory Fund, \$2,800.00, 1/12/2021; Cory Booker for Senate, \$2,800.00, 1/12/2021; Democratic Party of Wisconsin Federal, \$1,000.00, 1/21/2021; Rosen for Nevada, \$2,700.00, 1/22/2021; Rosen for Nevada, \$2,900.00, 1/22/2021; Bennet for Colorado, \$2,800.00, 1/22/2021; Bennet for Colorado, \$2,800.00, 1/22/2021; DNC Services Corp/Democratic National Committee, \$15,000.00, 2/11/2021; Rosen Victory Fund, \$5,900.00, 2/22/2021; Rosen for Nevada, \$200.00, 2/22/2021; Nevada State Democratic Party, \$700.00, 2/22/2021; Smart Solutions PAC, \$5,000.00, 2/22/2021; Cory Booker for Senate, \$2,900.00, 2/24/2021; Cory Booker for Senate, \$100.00, 2/24/2021; Booker Victory Fund, \$5,800.00, 4/13/2021; New Jersey Democratic State Committee, \$800.00, 4/13/2021; Purpose PAC, \$5,000.00, 4/13/2021; Ro for Congress Inc, \$2,900.00, 4/28/2021; Ro for Congress Inc, \$2,900.00, 4/28/2021; Booker Victory Fund, \$5,800.00, 7/9/2021; New Jersey Democratic State Committee, \$5,800.00 7/9/2021; DSCC, \$10,000.00, 7/18/2021; DSCC, \$10,000.00, 7/18/2021; Booker Victory Fund, \$5,800.00, 8/15/2021; New Jersey Democratic State Committee, \$3,400.00, 8/15/2021; Booker Victory Fund, -\$2,400.00, 8/16/2021; DSCC, \$2,400.00, 8/25/2021; Kaine for Common Ground

PAC, \$5,800.00, 8/28/2021; Kaine for Virginia, \$2,900.00, 9/30/2021; Kaine for Virginia, \$2,900.00, 9/30/2021; DSCC, \$5,900.00, 9/14/2021; DSCC, \$14,100.00, 9/14/2021; Wyden for Senate, \$2,900.00, 9/15/2021; Wyden for Senate, \$2,900.00, 9/15/2021; Accountability Virginia PAC, \$25,000.00, 9/20/2021; Accountability Virginia PAC, \$25,000.00, 9/20/2021; Cheri Beasley for North Carolina, \$2,900.00, 9/26/2021; Accountability Virginia PAC, \$25,000.00, 10/1/2021; Accountability Virginia PAC, \$25,000.00, 10/12/2021; Accountability Virginia PAC, \$25,000.00, 10/18/2021; Accountability Virginia PAC, \$25,000.00, 10/18/2021; Friends of Lucy McBath, \$500.00, 10/23/2021, Andy Kim for Congress, \$500.00, 10/23/2021, Mike Levin for Congress, \$500.00, 10/23/2021, Mikie Sherrill for Congress, \$500.00, 10/23/2021; Sharice for Congress, \$500.00, 10/23/2021; Haley Stevens for Congress, \$500.00, 10/23/2021; Cindy Axne for Congress, \$500.00, 10/23/2021; Lauren Underwood for Congress, \$500.00, 10/23/2021; DSCC, \$36,500.00, 1/24/2022; Democratic Grassroots Victory Fund, \$36,500.00, 1/29/2022; DNC Services Corp/Democratic National Committee, \$36,500.00, 1/29/2022; Tim Ryan for Ohio, \$1,000.00, 2/9/2022; Conor Lamb for Senate, \$1,000.00, 3/2/2022.

Donee: Lauren Sabet;

Organization, Joint Fund Recipient, Donation Amount and Donation Date: Biden for President, \$2,800.00, 8/06/2019.

George P. Kent, of Massachusetts, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Estonia.

Nominee: George Peter Kent.

Post: Tallinn, Estonia.

(The following is a list of members of my immediate family. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:

Myself: None.

My spouse: None.

Lynne M. Tracy, of Ohio, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Career Minister, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Russian Federation.

Nominee: Lynne M. Tracy.

Post: Russian Federation.

(The following is a list of members of my immediate family. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:

None.

Carol Spahn, of Maryland, to be Director of the Peace Corps.

L. Felice Gorordo, of Florida, to be United States Alternate Executive Director of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development for a term of two years.

Richard L.A. Weiner, of the District of Columbia, to be United States Director of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, for the Committee on Foreign Relations I report favorably the following nomination lists which were printed in the RECORD on the dates indicated, and ask unanimous consent, to save the expense of reprinting on the Executive Calendar that these nominations lie at

the Secretary's desk for the information of Senators.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Foreign Service nomination of Ryan Giralt Bedford.

Foreign Service nominations beginning with Gary P. Anthony and ending with Stephanie A. Bunce, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on November 15, 2022.

By Ms. CANTWELL for the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

*David Michael Capozzi, of Maryland, to be a Director of the Amtrak Board of Directors for a term of five years.

*Anthony Rosario Coscia, of New Jersey, to be a Director of the Amtrak Board of Directors for a term of five years.

*Christopher Koos, of Illinois, to be a Director of the Amtrak Board of Directors for a term of five years.

*Samuel E. Lathem, of Delaware, to be a Director of the Amtrak Board of Directors for a term of five years.

*Robin Lee Wiessmann, of Pennsylvania, to be a Director of the Amtrak Board of Directors for a term of five years.

*Rubydee Calvert, of Wyoming, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting for a term expiring January 31, 2028.

*Sue Ellen Moore, of Washington, to be a Member of the Marine Mammal Commission for a term expiring May 13, 2023.

*Andrew J. Read, of North Carolina, to be a Member of the Marine Mammal Commission for a term expiring May 13, 2025.

*Robert E. Primus, of New Jersey, to be a Member of the Surface Transportation Board for a term expiring December 31, 2027.

*Diane Susan Kaplan, of Alaska, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting for a term expiring January 31, 2026.

*Coast Guard nominations beginning with Capt. Richard E. Batson and ending with Capt. Wilborne E. Watson, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 6, 2022.

*Coast Guard nominations beginning with Mary M. Dean and ending with Michael W. Raymond, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on October 11, 2022.

*Coast Guard nomination of Capt. William G. Dwyer, to be Rear Admiral (Lower Half).

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, for the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation I report favorably the following nomination lists which were printed in the RECORD on the dates indicated, and ask unanimous consent, to save the expense of reprinting on the Executive Calendar that these nominations lie at the Secretary's desk for the information of Senators.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

*Coast Guard nominations beginning with William C. Adams and ending with Yvonne C. Yang, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 29, 2022.

*Coast Guard nominations beginning with Craig H. Allen, Jr. and ending with Nicholas S. Worst, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 29, 2022.

*Coast Guard nominations beginning with Brian J. Maggi and ending with Lisa M. Thompson, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on October 11, 2022.

*Coast Guard nominations beginning with Troy E. Fryar and ending with John D. Hughes, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on November 15, 2022.

*Coast Guard nominations beginning with Amber S. Ward and ending with Christopher Anderson, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on November 17, 2022.

*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

(Nominations without an asterisk were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. ROMNEY (for himself and Mr. SULLIVAN):

S. 5195. A bill to strengthen the national security of the United States by decreasing the reliance of the Department of Defense on critical minerals from the People's Republic of China, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Ms. BALDWIN (for herself, Mrs. BLACKBURN, and Mr. BENNET):

S. 5196. A bill to authorize the location of a monument on the National Mall to commemorate and honor the women's suffrage movement and the passage of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. CORNYN:

S. 5197. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 651 Business Interstate Highway 35 North Suite 420 in New Braunfels, Texas, as the "Bob Krueger Post Office"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. TESTER (for himself and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. 5198. A bill to amend title VI of the Social Security Act to make eligible revenue sharing consolidated governments eligible for payments from the Local Assistance and Tribal Consistency Fund, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. HIRONO (for herself, Mr. CARPER, Mr. MERKLEY, and Mr. MARKEY):

S. 5199. A bill to authorize Federal agencies to establish prize competitions for innovation or adaptation management development relating to coral reef ecosystems, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN:

S. 5200. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to expand eligibility of members of the National Guard for housing loans guaranteed by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND:

S. 5201. A bill to reauthorize the Helen Keller National Center for Youths and Adults Who Are Deaf-Blind; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. REED (for himself and Mr. YOUNG):

S. 5202. A bill to amend the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act and the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act to strengthen adult education; to the Com-

mittee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CRAPO (for himself, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. RISCH, Ms. HASSAN, Ms. WARREN, Mr. THUNE, Mrs. BLACKBURN, and Ms. DUCKWORTH):

S. 5203. A bill to provide for the creation of the Missing Armed Forces Personnel Records Collection at the National Archives, to require the expeditious public transmission to the Archivist and public disclosure of Missing Armed Forces Personnel records, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. BOOKER:

S. 5204. A bill to strengthen student achievement and graduation rates and prepare children and youth for college, careers, and citizenship through innovative partnerships that meet the comprehensive needs of children and youth; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. LUJAN (for himself and Mr. CRAMER):

S. 5205. A bill to amend the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act to require the Secretary of Energy to establish an abandoned wells research, development, and demonstration program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself and Ms. WARREN):

S. 5206. A bill to improve the treatment of Federal prisoners who are primary caretaker parents, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. SMITH:

S. 5207. A bill to authorize the Attorney General to make grants to improve public safety, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mr. THUNE):

S. 5208. A bill to enhance existing aviation workforce development pilot programs; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MERKLEY, and Mr. PADILLA):

S. 5209. A bill to establish a grant program for States to fund community-based nonprofit student loan consumer assistance programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. 5210. A bill to require an interagency study on the environmental and energy impacts of crypto-asset mining, to assess crypto-asset mining compliance with the Clean Air Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself and Mr. HAGERTY):

S. Res. 862. A resolution calling for the dissolution of the biased United Nations Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and Israel; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Ms. SMITH (for herself and Mr. RUBIO):

S. Res. 863. A resolution designating November 2022 as "National Lung Cancer

Awareness Month" and expressing support for early detection and treatment of lung cancer; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 403

At the request of Mr. YOUNG, the names of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) were added as cosponsors of S. 403, a bill to preserve open competition and Federal Government neutrality towards the labor relations of Federal Government contractors on Federal and federally funded construction projects, and for other purposes.

S. 1873

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1873, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for Medicare coverage of multi-cancer early detection screening tests.

S. 2029

At the request of Mr. MURPHY, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2029, a bill to prohibit the use of corporal punishment in schools, and for other purposes.

S. 2438

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2438, a bill to modify the boundary of the Cane River Creole National Historical Park in the State of Louisiana, and for other purposes.

S. 3372

At the request of Mr. BRAUN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3372, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to strengthen benefits for children of Vietnam veterans born with spina bifida, and for other purposes.

S. 3508

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3508, a bill to posthumously award a congressional gold medal to Constance Baker Motley.

S. 3629

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3629, a bill to authorize a study on certain exemptions for treatment of opioid use disorder through opioid treatment programs during the COVID-19 public health emergency, and for other purposes.

S. 3766

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3766, a bill to increase the benefits guaranteed in connection with certain pension plans, and for other purposes.

S. 3791

At the request of Mrs. CAPITO, the name of the Senator from New Jersey

(Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3791, a bill to amend titles XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act to provide for coverage of prescription digital therapeutics under such titles, and for other purposes.

S. 3797

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3797, a bill to amend title V of the Social Security Act to support stillbirth prevention and research, and for other purposes.

S. 3963

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, the names of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 3963, a bill to protect survivors from brain injury by authorizing the Secretary of Health and Human Services to collect data on the prevalence of brain injuries resulting from domestic and sexual violence.

S. 4120

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4120, a bill to maximize discovery, and accelerate development and availability, of promising childhood cancer treatments, and for other purposes.

S. 4156

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4156, a bill to improve the workforce of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 4419

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4419, a bill to require small, medium, and large hub airports to certify that airport service workers are paid the prevailing wage and provided fringe benefits, and for other purposes.

S. 4587

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN), the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR), the Senator from Wyoming (Ms. LUMMIS), the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) and the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) were added as cosponsors of S. 4587, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Benjamin Berell Ferencz, in recognition of his service to the United States and international community during the post-World War II Nuremberg trials and lifelong advocacy for international criminal justice and rule of law.

S. 4700

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4700, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for

limitations on copayments for contraception furnished by the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 4932

At the request of Mr. PADILLA, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) and the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 4932, a bill to amend title 17, United States Code, to provide fair treatment of radio stations and artists for the use of sound recordings, and for other purposes.

S. 4937

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4937, a bill to prohibit the United States Government from recognizing the Russian Federation's claim of sovereignty over any portion of the sovereign territory of Ukraine, and for other purposes.

S. 5021

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 5021, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude certain broadband grants from gross income.

S. 5112

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 5112, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the 250th Anniversary of the United States Marine Corps, and to support programs at the Marine Corps Heritage Center.

S. 5135

At the request of Mr. BOOZMAN, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 5135, a bill to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to prohibit the Securities and Exchange Commission from requiring an issuer to disclose information relating to certain greenhouse gas emissions, and for other purposes.

S. 5192

At the request of Mr. KING, the names of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS), the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 5192, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the limitation on the credit for biomass stoves and boilers.

S. CON. RES. 47

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 47, a concurrent resolution commending the bravery, courage, and resolve of the women and men of Iran demonstrating in more than 80 cities and risking their safety to speak out against the Iranian regime's human rights abuses.

S. RES. 650

At the request of Mr. KAINE, the name of the Senator from Connecticut

(Mr. MURPHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 650, a resolution recognizing May 28 as "World Hunger Day", that the 90th anniversary of the Ukrainian Famine of 1932-1933, known as the Holodomor, should serve as a reminder of repressive Soviet policies against the people of Ukraine, and that Vladimir Putin's illegal war against Ukraine has diminished Ukraine's agricultural output and threatens to exacerbate the problems of global hunger on World Hunger Day.

AMENDMENT NO. 6477

At the request of Mr. MARSHALL, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 6477 intended to be proposed to H.R. 7900, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2023 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Ms. HIRONO (for herself, Mr. CARPER, Mr. MERKLEY, and Mr. MARKEY):

S. 5199. A bill to authorize Federal agencies to establish prize competitions for innovation or adaptation management development relating to coral reef ecosystems, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce a bill, the Coral Sustainability Through Innovation Act of 2022. This no-cost bill allows the head of any Federal Agency with a representative serving on the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force to award competitive prizes for the purpose of stimulating innovation to advance the ability of the United States to understand, research, or monitor coral reef ecosystems or to develop management or adaptation options to preserve, sustain, and restore coral reef ecosystems.

Federal Agencies with a representative serving on the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force include the Department of Commerce, DOC; the Department of the Interior, DOI; the Federal Emergency Management Agency, FEMA; the U.S. Agency for International Development, USAID; the U.S. Department of Agriculture, USDA; the Department of Defense, DOD; the U.S. Coast Guard, USCG; the U.S. Department of Justice, DOJ; the U.S. Department of State, DOS; the U.S. Department of Transportation, DOT; the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, EPA; the National Aeronautic Space Administration, NASA; and the National Science Foundation, NSF. In addition to Federal Agencies, other members of the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force include the States of Hawaii and Florida, the territories of Guam, American Samoa, and the U.S. Virgin Islands, the Commonwealths of Puerto Rico and the Northern Mariana Islands, and the Federated

States of Micronesia, the Republic of Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau.

Corals serve myriad ecosystem functions, which include serving as a source of food, a place for recreation and tourism, a source for coastal protection, and an important part of local cultural practices, to name a few. A number of studies have been conducted to place a monetary value on the importance of coral reef ecosystems in Hawaii. A U.S. Geological Survey, USGS, study published in 2019 estimated the flood protection value of coral reefs in Hawaii alone at \$836 million annually. When accounting for all U.S. coral reefs, so those in the waters of Hawaii, Florida, Guam, American Samoa, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the same study estimated the flood protection value to increase to \$1.8 billion. Another study published by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, NOAA, in 2011 estimated the total economic value of Hawaii coral reefs to the American people to be \$33.57 billion. There is no doubt the importance of corals to our Nation.

Unfortunately, there are currently a number of variables that are threatening the health of our Nation's coral reefs. These variables include climate change-driven warming of ocean temperatures and ocean acidification, unsustainable fishing, and pollution. As a result of global bleaching events and disease outbreaks corals are projected to decline significantly over the coming decades.

In an effort to mitigate the impacts of declining coral health, this no-cost bill prioritizes programs that address communities, environments, or industries that are in distress due to the decline or degradation of coral reef ecosystems. Allowing Federal Agencies on the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force to enter into private-public partnerships via prize competitions, as this bill does, will allow for the advancement of innovative research that will advance our Nation's ability to preserve, sustain, and restore coral reef ecosystems.

Time is running out to ensure that coral reef ecosystems remain the vibrant habitats that so many aspects of our society's functioning have come to rely upon. Innovative solutions at no extra cost to the American people, such as those supported by this bill, are desperately needed to reverse the damage that our Nation's coral reef ecosystems have experienced over the past decades to ensure that they will be around to benefit Americans in the coming decades.

By Mr. REED (for himself and Mr. YOUNG):

S. 5202. A bill to amend the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act and the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act to strengthen adult education; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, we have a longstanding adult literacy crisis that

affects the quality of life for individuals and families and holds our economy back. It is time for a major expansion of adult education. Today, I am proud to introduce bipartisan legislation—the Adult Education Workforce Opportunity and Reskilling for Knowledge and Success Act, or the Adult Education WORKS Act—with my colleague Senator YOUNG.

Adult education provides numeracy, literacy, digital literacy, English language skills, work readiness, soft skills, high school equivalency, and numerous wraparound services to millions of adult learners nationwide—all essential skills. They can be the difference between earning a family-sustaining wage and struggling to make ends meet. A study commissioned by the Barbara Bush Foundation estimated that getting all U.S. adults to the equivalent of a sixth grade reading level would generate an additional \$2.2 trillion in annual income for the country. Without the opportunities provided through adult education programs, many adults will be left on the sidelines.

According to recent National Center for Education Statistics, NCES, data, 43 million adults are low-skilled in literacy and 62.7 million adults are low-skilled in numeracy. Building a sustainable economy that truly works for everyone is going to require helping these individuals acquire the basic skills they need to succeed. Unfortunately, we are reaching only a fraction of these individuals today. According to the Department of Education, at current funding levels, adult education programs only serve about 1.1 million people, and an estimated one-third of local adult education providers have waiting lists.

The Adult Education WORKS Act provides a roadmap for addressing this crisis. It calls for increased resources, doubling funding for adult education by 2026. At the same time, it makes significant improvements to the adult education system. It calls for a new emphasis on digital and information literacy, which are critical for success in the workplace and in navigating everyday life. It enhances the role of adult education providers, with a special focus on public libraries and community-based organizations, throughout the workforce development system, ensuring coordination and efficient use of resources. It invests in the professionalization of the adult education field, strengthening State certification policies, encouraging full-time staffing models, and expanding professional development opportunities and career pathways for adult educators. It provides support for college and career navigators in public libraries and community-based organizations to support adult learners where they live. Finally, it invests in innovation and accountability through pilot projects that test new approaches to measuring program performance and learner outcomes.

In developing this legislation, Senator YOUNG and I worked closely with key stakeholders working on the frontlines in the adult education community. I am pleased to count the American Library Association, the Center for Law and Social Policy, the Coalition on Adult Basic Education, the National Coalition for Literacy, ProLiteracy, and TESOL among the supporters of this legislation.

I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this legislation and work with us to ensure it is part of any legislation to reauthorize the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 862—CALLING FOR THE DISSOLUTION OF THE BIASED UNITED NATIONS INDEPENDENT INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION OF INQUIRY ON THE OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORY, INCLUDING EAST JERUSALEM, AND ISRAEL

Mr. CARDIN (for himself and Mr. HAGERTY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 862

Whereas, shortly after the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in May 2021, the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) launched an open-ended investigation into the actions of Israel during the conflict;

Whereas the investigation, which serves to discredit the only Jewish state, is likely to further fuel anti-Semitism worldwide;

Whereas the mandate of the United Nations Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and Israel (referred to in this preamble as the "Commission") is to investigate in the West Bank, Gaza, East Jerusalem, and Israel all alleged violations of international humanitarian law and all alleged violations and abuses of international human rights law leading up to and since April 13, 2021;

Whereas the creation of the Commission is consistent with the continued bias of the UNHRC against Israel and the disproportionate use of resources in an ongoing campaign to disparage, discredit, and denounce Israel;

Whereas, on October 16, 2021, after the United States was reelected to the UNHRC, Secretary of State Antony Blinken stated that the UNHRC "suffers from serious flaws, including disproportionate attention on Israel" and that the United States and other countries "must push back against attempts to subvert the ideals upon which the Human Rights Council was founded";

Whereas, on March 28, 2022, Senator Cardin and Senator Portman led a bipartisan group of 68 Senators in a letter urging the Biden administration to prioritize reversing the discriminatory and unwarranted treatment of Israel by the UNHRC by leading a multinational effort in the UNHRC and in the United Nations to end the Commission;

Whereas the Commission released a report on June 7, 2022, stating that "the continued occupation by Israel of Palestinian territory and discrimination against Palestinians are the key root causes of the recurrent tensions, instability and protraction of conflict in the region";

Whereas the report was presented at the 50th session of the UNHRC on June 13, 2022, and concluded by stating that the Commission will conduct investigations and legal analysis into alleged violations and abuses by Israel and will work with judicial accountability mechanisms toward ensuring individual, state, and corporate accountability;

Whereas, on October 20, 2022, the Commission released a report to the United Nations General Assembly, stating that “Israeli occupation of Palestinian territory is now unlawful under international law due to its permanence and the Israeli Government’s de facto annexation policies” and urged that the issue to be referred to the International Court of Justice;

Whereas, on November 11, 2022, the United Nations General Assembly Fourth Committee voted by a margin of 98 in favor, 17 opposed, and 52 abstentions to urgently seek an advisory opinion from the International Court of Justice on the “prolonged occupation, settlement and annexation of Palestinian territory” by Israel; and

Whereas one-sided reporting by the Commission continues to attack Israel, while ignoring the continued violence committed by Hamas and other Palestinian terrorist groups: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) calls for the Secretary of State to continue to work robustly toward the dissolution of the biased United Nations Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and Israel (referred to in this resolution as the “Commission”) to allow the United Nations Human Rights Council to focus on the many situations around the world that warrant a thorough and even-handed examination;

(2) supports efforts by the Secretary of State to continue to reduce the budget of the Commission until it is eliminated;

(3) believes that eliminating the Commission is an opportunity to fulfill the pledge made at the 76th session of the United Nations General Assembly Fifth Committee by Ambassador Patrick F. Kennedy that “the U.S. stands with Israel in rejecting the unprecedented open-ended mandate of this Commission of Inquiry, which perpetuates a practice of unfairly singling out Israel in the U.N.”; and

(4) opposes the persistent anti-Israel bias of the United Nations Human Rights Council and other international organizations.

SENATE RESOLUTION 863—DESIGNATING NOVEMBER 2022 AS “NATIONAL LUNG CANCER AWARENESS MONTH” AND EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR EARLY DETECTION AND TREATMENT OF LUNG CANCER

Ms. SMITH (for herself and Mr. RUBIO) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 863

Whereas lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer-related death among individuals in the United States, accounting for more deaths than colon cancer, breast cancer, and prostate cancer combined;

Whereas it is estimated that, in 2022, 236,740 individuals in the United States will be diagnosed with lung cancer, and 130,180 individuals (approximately 350 individuals per day) will die from the disease;

Whereas 1 in 16 men and 1 in 17 women in the United States will develop lung cancer during their lifetimes;

Whereas the rate of lung cancer diagnosis in women in the United States has increased by 79 percent over the past 44 years, each year more women die from lung cancer than breast cancer, and, by 2035, it is estimated that more women will die from lung cancer than men;

Whereas disparities in lung cancer screening, diagnosis, treatment, and mortality are well-documented, and Black men have the highest incidence of lung cancer and the highest mortality rate from lung cancer of any racial or ethnic group in the United States;

Whereas, in 2022, lung cancer in individuals who have never smoked is estimated to account for 20,700 deaths in the United States, according to the American Cancer Society;

Whereas women who have never smoked are more likely to be diagnosed with lung cancer than men who have never smoked;

Whereas, in the United States, the proportion of lung cancers diagnosed in individuals who have never smoked is increasing;

Whereas the 5-year survival rate for localized lung cancer is 61 percent, yet only 19 percent of lung cancers are diagnosed at this stage, while a majority of lung cancer cases are diagnosed at the distant stage, for which the 5-year survival rate is 7 percent;

Whereas screening individuals at high risk of lung cancer using low-dose computed tomography can detect lung cancer earlier than other forms of screening and ultimately save lives;

Whereas over 1,000,000 veterans are eligible for lung cancer screening, but less than 3 percent undergo lung cancer screening by low-dose computed tomography;

Whereas lung cancer screening can effectively reduce lung cancer mortality, but, annually, only 4.5 percent of individuals in the United States at risk for lung cancer undergo lung cancer screening with low-dose computed tomography;

Whereas current lung cancer screening guidelines help identify cancer early for individuals at high risk of lung cancer, leading to a higher likelihood of successful treatment, but can preclude screening for individuals who develop lung cancer, including individuals who have never smoked but have other risk factors, such as family history of lung cancer, exposure to secondhand smoke, or exposure to radon, which is the second leading cause of lung cancer; and

Whereas educational efforts can increase awareness of lung cancer and lung cancer screening among the general public, patients and their families, and health care workers, thereby increasing the early detection of lung cancer: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates November 2022 as “National Lung Cancer Awareness Month”;

(2) supports the purposes and ideals of National Lung Cancer Awareness Month;

(3) promotes efforts to increase awareness of, and education about, lung cancer among individuals in the United States;

(4) champions efforts to increase lung cancer screening by raising awareness among, and improving access for, individuals who are eligible for lung cancer screening;

(5) recognizes the need for research on the early screening, diagnosis, and treatment of lung cancer; and

(6) encourages the people of the United States to observe National Lung Cancer Awareness Month with appropriate awareness and educational activities.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, I have two requests for committees to meet

during today’s session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority Leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today’s session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

The Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, December 7, 2022, at 10 a.m., to conduct a business meeting.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, December 7, 2022, at 10 a.m., to conduct a business meeting.

PROVIDING FOR CERTAIN WHISTLEBLOWER INCENTIVES AND PROTECTIONS

Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be discharged from further consideration of S. 3316 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3316) to provide for certain whistleblower incentives and protections.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Ms. HASSAN. I ask unanimous consent that the Grassley substitute amendment be considered and agreed to and the bill be considered read a third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 6507), in the nature of a substitute, was agreed to as follows:

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute)

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Anti-Money Laundering Whistleblower Improvement Act”.

SEC. 2. WHISTLEBLOWER INCENTIVES AND PROTECTIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 5323 of title 31, United States Code, as amended by section 6314 of the Anti-Money Laundering Act of 2020 (division F of Public Law 116-283) is amended by striking subsection (b) and inserting the following:

“(b) AWARDS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—In any covered judicial or administrative action, or related action, the Secretary, under regulations prescribed by the Secretary, in consultation with the Attorney General and subject to subsection (c), shall pay an award or awards to 1 or more whistleblowers who voluntarily provided original information to the employer of the individual, the Secretary, or the Attorney General, as applicable, that led to the successful enforcement of the covered judicial or administrative action, or related action, in an aggregate amount equal to—

“(A) not less than 10 percent, in total, of what has been collected of the monetary sanctions imposed in the action or related actions; and

“(B) not more than 30 percent, in total, of what has been collected of the monetary sanctions imposed in the action or related actions.

“(2) PAYMENT OF AWARDS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Any amount paid under paragraph (1) shall be paid from the Fund established under paragraph (3).

“(B) RELATED ACTIONS.—The Secretary may pay awards less than the amount described in paragraph (1)(A) for related actions in which a whistleblower may be paid by another whistleblower award program.

“(3) SOURCE OF AWARDS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—There shall be established in the Treasury of the United States a revolving fund to be known as the Financial Integrity Fund (referred to in this subsection as the ‘Fund’).

“(B) USE OF FUND.—The Fund shall be available to the Secretary, without further appropriation or fiscal year limitations, only for the payment of awards to whistleblowers as provided in subsection (b).

“(C) RESTRICTIONS ON USE OF FUND.—The Fund shall not be available to pay any personnel or administrative expenses.

“(4) DEPOSITS AND CREDITS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—There shall be deposited into or credited to the Fund an amount equal to—

“(i) any monetary sanction collected by the Secretary or Attorney General in any judicial or administrative action under this title, chapter 35 or section 4305 or 4312 of title 50, or the Foreign Narcotics Kingpin Designation Act (21 U.S.C. 1901 et seq.), unless the balance of the Fund at the time the monetary sanction is collected exceeds \$300,000,000; and

“(ii) all income from investments made under paragraph (5).

“(B) ADDITIONAL AMOUNTS.—If the amounts deposited into or credited to the Fund under subparagraph (A) are not sufficient to satisfy an award made under this subsection, there shall be deposited into or credited to the Fund an amount equal to the unsatisfied portion of the award from any monetary sanction collected by the Secretary of the Treasury or Attorney General in the covered judicial or administrative action on which the award is based.

“(C) EXCEPTION.—No amounts to be deposited or transferred into the United States Victims of State Sponsored Terrorism Fund pursuant to the Justice for United States Victims of State Sponsored Terrorism Act (34 U.S.C. 20144) or the Crime Victims Fund pursuant section 1402 of the Victims of Crime Act of 1984 (34 U.S.C. 20101) shall be deposited into or credited to the Fund.

“(5) INVESTMENTS.—

“(A) AMOUNTS IN FUND MAY BE INVESTED.—The Secretary of the Treasury may invest the portion of the Fund that is not required to meet the current needs of the Fund.

“(B) ELIGIBLE INVESTMENTS.—Investments shall be made by the Secretary of the Treasury in obligations of the United States or obligations that are guaranteed as to principal and interest by the United States, with maturities suitable to the needs of the Fund as determined by the Secretary.

“(C) INTEREST AND PROCEEDS CREDITED.—The interest on, and the proceeds from the sale or redemption of, any obligations held in the Fund shall be credited to, and form a part of, the Fund.”.

(b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 5323 of title 31, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraphs (1) and (5), by striking “this subchapter or subchapter III” each place the term appears and inserting “this subchapter, chapter 35 or section 4305 or 4312 of title 50, the Foreign Narcotics Kingpin Designation Act (21 U.S.C. 1901 et seq.), or .), and for conspiracies to violate the aforementioned provisions”; and

(B) in paragraph (4)—

(i) by inserting “covered” after “respect to any”; and

(ii) by striking “under this subchapter or subchapter III”; and

(iii) by striking “action by the Secretary or the Attorney General” and inserting “covered action”; and

(2) in subsection (c)(1)(B)(iii)—

(A) by striking “subchapter and subchapter III” and inserting “this subchapter, chapter 35 or section 4305 or 4312 of title 50, and the Foreign Narcotics Kingpin Designation Act (21 U.S.C. 1901 et seq.)”; and

(B) by striking “either such subchapter” and inserting “the covered judicial or administrative action”; and

(3) in subsection (g)(4)(D)(i), by inserting “chapter 35 or section 4305 or 4312 of title 50, or the Foreign Narcotics Kingpin Designation Act (21 U.S.C. 1901 et seq.),” after “subchapter.”.

The bill, as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading and was read the third time.

Ms. HASSAN. I know of no further debate on the bill, as amended.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate on the bill?

Hearing none, the bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The bill (S. 3316), as amended, was passed.

Ms. HASSAN. I further ask that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

FEMA IMPROVEMENT, REFORM, AND EFFICIENCY ACT OF 2022

Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, I ask that the Chair lay before the Senate the message to accompany S. 3092.

The Presiding Officer laid before the Senate the following message from the House of Representatives:

Resolved, That the bill from the Senate (S. 3092) entitled “An Act to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to improve the provision of certain disaster assistance, and for other purposes.”, do pass with an amendment.

MOTION TO CONCUR

Ms. HASSAN. I move to concur in the House amendment, and I ask unanimous consent that the motion be agreed to and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CLEAR AND CONCISE CONTENT ACT OF 2022

Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 502, S. 4577.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 4577) to improve plain writing and public experience, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with amendments, as follows:

(The parts of the bill intended to be stricken are shown in boldface brackets and the parts of the bill intended to be inserted are shown in italic.)

S. 4577

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Clear and Concise Content Act of 2022”.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) AGENCY.—The term “agency” means an executive agency and a military department, as such terms are defined in sections 105 and 102 of title 5, United States Code, respectively.

(2) COVERED CONTENT.—The term “covered content”—

(A) means any content that—

(i) is necessary for obtaining any benefit or service from the Federal Government or for filing taxes; or

(ii) provides information about—

(I) any benefit or service from the Federal Government;

(II) any operations, policies, or guidance of an agency that are of material importance to the agency and are posted publicly by the agency, including any explanation of how to comply with a requirement the Federal Government administers or enforces;

(III) how to interact with or provide feedback to an agency regarding the operations, policies, or guidance of the agency; or

(IV) how to navigate or interact with any agency website, digital service, or office;

(B) includes—

(i) (whether in paper or electronic form) a letter, publication, form, notice, guidance, policy, instruction, or official correspondence of an agency;

(ii) all content necessary for public understanding, interaction, and use of an agency digital service or website; and

(iii) instructions on how to submit comments, feedback, or information in response to a regulation during any portion of the rulemaking or implementation process for a regulation; and

(C) subject to subparagraph (B)(iii), does not include a regulation.

(3) DIRECTOR.—The term “Director” means the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

(4) OPEN GOVERNMENT DATA ASSET.—The term “open Government data asset” has the meaning given that term in section 3502 of title 44, United States Code.

(5) PLAIN WRITING.—The term “plain writing” means writing that is clear, concise, well-organized, and follows other best practices appropriate to the subject or field and intended audience, including an audience who may be disabled, may not be proficient in English, or may otherwise be disadvantaged or traditionally underserved.

SEC. 3. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE DIRECTOR.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director shall rescind outdated guidance and issue new guidance for the creation, maintenance, and use of covered content at agencies.

(b) REQUIREMENTS.—The guidance required under subsection (a) shall—

(1) establish procedures under which an agency shall review any content in use on the date of enactment of this Act to determine if it is covered content;

(2) establish policies for an agency to ensure that any content of the agency that is covered content, including any content created or updated after the date of enactment of this Act that is determined to be covered content, is drafted in plain writing;

(3) establish qualitative and quantitative metrics by which an agency shall be measured for compliance with the requirements to identify covered content, draft covered content in plain writing, and solicit and incorporate public feedback and data to improve public engagement and interaction with the agency;

(4) prescribe processes by which agencies shall submit agency reports required by the Director, in an appropriate manner and form, to support the governmentwide reports required under subsection (c); and

(5) require an agency to solicit public feedback, collect data, and routinely test the creation or modification of covered content of the agency.

(c) REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Director shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Oversight and Reform of the House of Representatives a report on implementation of this Act by agencies, including the progress of agencies towards the metrics established under subsection (b)(3) and any other information or data determined by the Director to inform Congress and the public on implementation of plain writing in covered content by agencies.

(2) PUBLIC WEBSITE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Director may make the reports submitted under paragraph (1) available on a public website determined by the Director.

(B) FORM.—If the Director makes reports available under subparagraph (A), the reports shall be maintained as open Government data assets.

(3) FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND AGENCY PERFORMANCE PLANS.—

(A) FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.—The Director shall ensure that the information regarding the Federal Government performance plan and agency performance plans required to be made available under [subsection (b) or (c) of section 1122] subsection (a) or (b) of section 1115 of title 31, United States Code, is treated as covered content and published (whether in paper or electronic form) using plain writing.

(B) AGENCY PERFORMANCE PLANS.—Section 1115(b) of title 31, United States Code, is amended—

(i) in paragraph (9)(C), by striking “and” at the end;

(ii) in paragraph (10), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

“(11) incorporate the metrics established under section 3(b)(3) of the Clear and Concise Content Act of 2022.”

SEC. 4. AGENCY RESPONSIBILITIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The head of each agency shall ensure compliance with this Act, including through the designation of a senior officer at the agency (not lower than [the an Assistant Secretary or equivalent] to oversee implementation by the agency, including all bureaus, offices, or other subordinate components of the agency.

(b) REQUIREMENT TO USE PLAIN LANGUAGE IN COVERED CONTENT.—Except as provided in

the amendments made by section 5(1), on and after the date that is 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, each agency shall use plain writing in all covered content made available by the agency, consistent with the guidance issued by the Director under section 3(a).

(c) REQUIREMENT FOR FEEDBACK FROM CUSTOMERS.—The head of each agency shall ensure that there are opportunities and mechanisms in place (whether in paper or electronic form) that incorporate plain writing instructions for feedback from individuals or entities obtaining services from or engaging in transactions with the agency.

(d) PUBLIC FEEDBACK.—The head of each agency shall maintain an accessible form, survey tool, or other portion of a website of the agency to solicit feedback from the public on compliance with this Act by the agency and to collect the feedback and data required under section 3(b) [(4)] (5).

SEC. 5. AMENDMENTS TO THE 21ST CENTURY IDEA ACT.

Section 3 of the 21st Century Integrated Digital Experience Act (44 U.S.C. 3501 note) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “Not later” and inserting “Except as provided in paragraph (9), not later”; and

(B) in paragraph (7), by striking “and” at the end;

(C) in paragraph (8), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(D) by adding at the end the following:

“(9) is drafted using plain writing (as defined in section 2 of the Clear and Concise Content Act of 2022), as is required under section 4 of such Act for covered content (as defined in section 2 of such Act), by not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of such Act.”; and

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “Not later” and inserting “Except as provided in paragraph (2), not later”; and

(B) by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

“(2) by not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Clear and Concise Content Act of 2022, comply with the requirements under subsection (a).”

SEC. 6. LIMITATION ON JUDICIAL ENFORCEABILITY.

(a) JUDICIAL REVIEW.—No court shall have jurisdiction over any claim related to any act or omission arising out of any provision of this Act.

(b) ENFORCEABILITY.—No provision of this Act shall be construed to create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable by any administrative or judicial action.

SEC. 7. REPEAL.

Effective on the date that is 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Plain Writing Act of 2010 (5 U.S.C. 301 note) is repealed.

Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, I further ask that the committee-reported amendments be agreed to; the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The committee reported amendments were agreed to.

The bill (S. 4577), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 4577

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Clear and Concise Content Act of 2022”.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) AGENCY.—The term “agency” means an executive agency and a military department, as such terms are defined in sections 105 and 102 of title 5, United States Code, respectively.

(2) COVERED CONTENT.—The term “covered content”—

(A) means any content that—

(i) is necessary for obtaining any benefit or service from the Federal Government or for filing taxes; or

(ii) provides information about—

(I) any benefit or service from the Federal Government;

(II) any operations, policies, or guidance of an agency that are of material importance to the agency and are posted publicly by the agency, including any explanation of how to comply with a requirement the Federal Government administers or enforces;

(III) how to interact with or provide feedback to an agency regarding the operations, policies, or guidance of the agency; or

(IV) how to navigate or interact with any agency website, digital service, or office;

(B) includes—

(i) (whether in paper or electronic form) a letter, publication, form, notice, guidance, policy, instruction, or official correspondence of an agency;

(ii) all content necessary for public understanding, interaction, and use of an agency digital service or website; and

(iii) instructions on how to submit comments, feedback, or information in response to a regulation during any portion of the rulemaking or implementation process for a regulation; and

(C) subject to subparagraph (B)(iii), does not include a regulation.

(3) DIRECTOR.—The term “Director” means the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

(4) OPEN GOVERNMENT DATA ASSET.—The term “open Government data asset” has the meaning given that term in section 3502 of title 44, United States Code.

(5) PLAIN WRITING.—The term “plain writing” means writing that is clear, concise, well-organized, and follows other best practices appropriate to the subject or field and intended audience, including an audience who may be disabled, may not be proficient in English, or may otherwise be disadvantaged or traditionally underserved.

SEC. 3. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE DIRECTOR.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director shall rescind outdated guidance and issue new guidance for the creation, maintenance, and use of covered content at agencies.

(b) REQUIREMENTS.—The guidance required under subsection (a) shall—

(1) establish procedures under which an agency shall review any content in use on the date of enactment of this Act to determine if it is covered content;

(2) establish policies for an agency to ensure that any content of the agency that is covered content, including any content created or updated after the date of enactment of this Act that is determined to be covered content, is drafted in plain writing;

(3) establish qualitative and quantitative metrics by which an agency shall be measured for compliance with the requirements to identify covered content, draft covered

content in plain writing, and solicit and incorporate public feedback and data to improve public engagement and interaction with the agency;

(4) prescribe processes by which agencies shall submit agency reports required by the Director, in an appropriate manner and form, to support the governmentwide reports required under subsection (c); and

(5) require an agency to solicit public feedback, collect data, and routinely test the creation or modification of covered content of the agency.

(c) **REPORTS TO CONGRESS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Director shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Oversight and Reform of the House of Representatives a report on implementation of this Act by agencies, including the progress of agencies towards the metrics established under subsection (b)(3) and any other information or data determined by the Director to inform Congress and the public on implementation of plain writing in covered content by agencies.

(2) **PUBLIC WEBSITE.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The Director may make the reports submitted under paragraph (1) available on a public website determined by the Director.

(B) **FORM.**—If the Director makes reports available under subparagraph (A), the reports shall be maintained as open Government data assets.

(3) **FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND AGENCY PERFORMANCE PLANS.**—

(A) **FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.**—The Director shall ensure that the information regarding the Federal Government performance plan and agency performance plans required to be made available under subsection (a) or (b) of section 1115 of title 31, United States Code, is treated as covered content and published (whether in paper or electronic form) using plain writing.

(B) **AGENCY PERFORMANCE PLANS.**—Section 1115(b) of title 31, United States Code, is amended—

(i) in paragraph (9)(C), by striking “and” at the end;

(ii) in paragraph (10), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

“(11) incorporate the metrics established under section 3(b)(3) of the Clear and Concise Content Act of 2022.”.

SEC. 4. AGENCY RESPONSIBILITIES.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The head of each agency shall ensure compliance with this Act, including through the designation of a senior officer at the agency (not lower than an Assistant Secretary or equivalent) to oversee implementation by the agency, including all bureaus, offices, or other subordinate components of the agency.

(b) **REQUIREMENT TO USE PLAIN LANGUAGE IN COVERED CONTENT.**—Except as provided in the amendments made by section 5(1), on and after the date that is 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, each agency shall use plain writing in all covered content made available by the agency, consistent with the guidance issued by the Director under section 3(a).

(c) **REQUIREMENT FOR FEEDBACK FROM CUSTOMERS.**—The head of each agency shall ensure that there are opportunities and mechanisms in place (whether in paper or electronic form) that incorporate plain writing instructions for feedback from individuals or entities obtaining services from or engaging in transactions with the agency.

(d) **PUBLIC FEEDBACK.**—The head of each agency shall maintain an accessible form,

survey tool, or other portion of a website of the agency to solicit feedback from the public on compliance with this Act by the agency and to collect the feedback and data required under section 3(b)(5).

SEC. 5. AMENDMENTS TO THE 21ST CENTURY IDEA ACT.

Section 3 of the 21st Century Integrated Digital Experience Act (44 U.S.C. 3501 note) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “Not later” and inserting “Except as provided in paragraph (9), not later”; and

(B) in paragraph (7), by striking “and” at the end;

(C) in paragraph (8), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(D) by adding at the end the following:

“(9) is drafted using plain writing (as defined in section 2 of the Clear and Concise Content Act of 2022), as is required under section 4 of such Act for covered content (as defined in section 2 of such Act), by not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of such Act.”; and

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “Not later” and inserting “Except as provided in paragraph (2), not later”; and

(B) by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

“(2) by not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Clear and Concise Content Act of 2022, comply with the requirements under subsection (a).”.

SEC. 6. LIMITATION ON JUDICIAL ENFORCEABILITY.

(a) **JUDICIAL REVIEW.**—No court shall have jurisdiction over any claim related to any act or omission arising out of any provision of this Act.

(b) **ENFORCEABILITY.**—No provision of this Act shall be construed to create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable by any administrative or judicial action.

SEC. 7. REPEAL.

Effective on the date that is 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Plain Writing Act of 2010 (5 U.S.C. 301 note) is repealed.

NATIONAL WARRIOR CALL DAY

Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration and the Senate now proceed to S. Res. 754.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 754) designating November 13, 2022, as “National Warrior Call Day” in recognition of the importance of connecting warriors in the United States to support structures necessary to transition from the battlefield.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to; the Shaheen amendment at the desk to the preamble be agreed to; the preamble, as amended, be agreed to; and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 754) was agreed to.

The amendment (No. 6508) to the preamble was agreed to as follows:

(Purpose: To amend the preamble)

Strike the preamble and insert the following:

Whereas establishing an annual “National Warrior Call Day” will draw attention to the members of the Armed Forces whose connection to one another is key to the veterans and first responders in the United States who may be dangerously disconnected from family, friends, and support systems;

Whereas the rate of suicide for members of the Armed Forces serving on active duty increased from 20.3 per 100,000 individuals in 2015 to 28.7 per 100,000 individuals in 2020;

Whereas the suicide rate for veterans has steadily increased since 2006, with 6,261 veterans dying by suicide in 2019;

Whereas, after adjusting for sex and age, the rate of veteran suicide in 2019 was 31.6 per 100,000 individuals, substantially higher than the rate among adults in the United States who are not veterans at 16.8 per 100,000 individuals;

Whereas more veterans have died by suicide in the last 10 years than members of the Armed Forces who died from combat in Vietnam;

Whereas many of the veterans who died by suicide had no contact with the Department of Veterans Affairs;

Whereas the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic continues to lead to increased isolation and disconnection, further exacerbating mental and physical ailments such as post-traumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injury;

Whereas invisible wounds linked to an underlying and undiagnosed traumatic brain injury can mirror many mental health conditions, a problem that can be addressed through appropriate medical treatment;

Whereas additional research is needed to highlight the connection between traumatic brain injury as a root cause of invisible wounds and suicide by members of the Armed Forces and veterans; and

Whereas November 13, 2022, would be an appropriate day to designate as “National Warrior Call Day”: Now, therefore, be it

The preamble, as amended, was agreed to.

The resolution with its preamble, as amended, reads as follows:

S. RES. 754

Whereas establishing an annual “National Warrior Call Day” will draw attention to the members of the Armed Forces whose connection to one another is key to the veterans and first responders in the United States who may be dangerously disconnected from family, friends, and support systems;

Whereas the rate of suicide for members of the Armed Forces serving on active duty increased from 20.3 per 100,000 individuals in 2015 to 28.7 per 100,000 individuals in 2020;

Whereas the suicide rate for veterans has steadily increased since 2006, with 6,261 veterans dying by suicide in 2019;

Whereas, after adjusting for sex and age, the rate of veteran suicide in 2019 was 31.6 per 100,000 individuals, substantially higher than the rate among adults in the United States who are not veterans at 16.8 per 100,000 individuals;

Whereas more veterans have died by suicide in the last 10 years than members of the Armed Forces who died from combat in Vietnam;

Whereas many of the veterans who died by suicide had no contact with the Department of Veterans Affairs;

Whereas the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic continues to lead to increased isolation and disconnection, further exacerbating mental and physical ailments such as post-traumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injury;

Whereas invisible wounds linked to an underlying and undiagnosed traumatic brain injury can mirror many mental health conditions, a problem that can be addressed through appropriate medical treatment;

Whereas additional research is needed to highlight the connection between traumatic brain injury as a root cause of invisible wounds and suicide by members of the Armed Forces and veterans; and

Whereas November 13, 2022, would be an appropriate day to designate as “National Warrior Call Day”: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates November 13, 2022, as “National Warrior Call Day”;

(2) encourages all individuals in the United States, especially members of the Armed Forces serving on active duty and veterans, to call up a warrior, have an honest conversation, and connect them with support, understanding that making a warrior call could save a life; and

(3) implores all individuals in the United States to recommit themselves to engaging with members of the Armed Forces through “National Warrior Call Day” and other constructive efforts that result in solutions and treatment for the invisible scars they carry.

CELEBRATING THE 45TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SENATE BLACK LEGISLATIVE STAFF CAUCUS AND ITS ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE SENATE

Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Rules and Administration be discharged from further consideration and the Senate now proceed to S. Res. 851.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 851) celebrating the 45th anniversary of the Senate Black Legislative Staff Caucus and its achievements in the Senate.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 851) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of November 29, 2022, under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

NATIONAL LUNG CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate

proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 863, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 863) designating November 2022 as “National Lung Cancer Awareness Month” and expressing support for the early detection and treatment of lung cancer.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Ms. HASSAN. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 863) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today’s RECORD under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2022

Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 11 a.m. on Thursday, December 8, and that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; that upon the conclusion of morning business, the Senate proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the Hopkins nomination postcloture; further, that at 11:30 a.m., the Senate vote on the Hopkins nomination and cloture on the Montgomery-Reeves nomination; further, that notwithstanding rule XXII, at 1:45 p.m., the Senate vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the Douglas nomination; finally, that if any nominations are confirmed during Thursday’s session, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate’s action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 11 A.M. TOMORROW

Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7:03 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, December 8, 2022, at 11 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY

WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be general

LT. GEN. CHARLES R. HAMILTON

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant colonel

CHANDRAMOULI RAJARAM

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be colonel

CHRISTOPHER A. KREILER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR TEMPORARY APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL’S CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 605 AND 7064:

To be colonel

MICHAEL A. RIZZOTTI
JESS B. ROBERTS
BRETT C. SHEPARD

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be colonel

RONALD W. SPRANG

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be colonel

RYAN C. AGEER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be colonel

PHILIP J. DEAGUILERA

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

BRIAN C. BELDOWICZ

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major

CHRISTOPHER A. BENSON

IN THE MARINE CORPS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be colonel

DAVID AHN
TIMOTHY D. ANDERLONIS
CHRISTOPHER E. ANNUNZIATA
JOEL R. ARCHIBALD
JASON C. ARMAS
PETER Y. BAN
RICHARD S. BARCLAY
SCOTT M. BENNINGHOFF
NEIL R. BERRY
PAUL B. BOCK
MARK P. BRATHWAITE
ROBERT S. BUNN
STANLEY P. CALIXTE
IAN S. CAMPBELL
MICHAEL CARLSON
MICHAEL J. CARROLL
MICHAEL R. CASSIDY
ALAN J. CLARKE
ZACHARY A. COATES
CHRISTOPHER S. CONNER
TIMOTHY F. COSTELLO
SCOTT A. CUOMO
JEFFREY S. CURTIS
SALEH P. DAGHER
KENNETH J. DELMAZO
NATHANIEL P. DOHERTY
DAVID J. DONNELL
BRIAN C. DONNELLY
MATTHEW S. DOWNS
SHARON L. DUBOW
SHANE A. EDWARDS
RAYMOND P. FELTHAM
MICHAEL E. FEUQUAY
JAMES D. FLEMING
KURT M. GALL
JAVIER A. GARCIA
ALBERT J. GOLDBERG
EVERETT M. GOOD
WILLIAM V. GORSUCH
ANDREW G. GOURGOMIS
BENJAMIN W. GRANT
BRYAN K. GRAYSON
JOSEPH I. GRIMM

RYAN F. HARRINGTON
THOMAS J. HELLER
LEE W. HEMMING
RUSSELL R. HENRY
MICHAEL T. HLAD
CHRISTINE M. HOUSER
CALEB HYATT
JOHN P. KEARNS
ANDREW W. KELLNER
JOHN F. KELLY
THOMAS W. KERSHUL
ANDREW J. KONICKI
DOUGLAS P. KRUGMAN
CEDRIC N. LEE
YONG J. LEE
SARAH B. LENZ
AARON C. LLOYD
NICHOLAS J. LOZAR
RYAN A. LYNCH
MICHELLE I. MACANDER
WILLIAM E. MARCANTEL, JR.
MATTHEW A. MARKHAM
RICHARD D. MARSHALL, JR.
ARMANDO J. MARTINEZ
WILLIAM J. MATORY
JOSHUA J. MAYORAL
ADAM C. MCCULLY
CHRISTOPHER C. MCDONALD II
ROBB T. MCDONALD
MATTHEW T. MCSORLEY
ROBERT D. MERRILL, JR.
ROBYN E. MESTEMACHER

JOHN A. MODER
CHRIS P. NIEDZIOCHA
CHARLES E. PARKER, JR.
IAIN D. PEDDEN
ZEBULON C. PHILPOTT
JACOB D. PORTARO
CARL J. PUNZEL
WADE C. REAVES
MARCUS J. REYNOLDS
KEITH W. RICHARDSON
RICHARD H. ROBINSON III
MICHAEL C. ROCK
JAMES T. ROSE
JUSTIN M. SANDERS
THOMAS W. SAVAGE
RUSSELL W. SAVATT IV
JOEL C. SCHUMACHER
PETRA L. SEIPEL
ARNOLD B. SELVIDGE
SCOTT G. SHADFORTH
LESLIE M. STANSBERRY
JOHN J. STEPHENS
JAMES D. THORNBURG, JR.
PABLO J. TORRES
ANNA M. VOYNE
MARC T. WALKER
SCOTT D. WELBORN
LIZETTE G. WELCH
JOSHUA O. WHAMOND
PATRICK S. WILLIAMS
ROBERT D. WOLFE
ADAM J. WORKMAN

JAY M. ZARRA

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT
TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY
UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant commander

TAPEKA C. PRINGLE

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by
the Senate December 7, 2022:

THE JUDICIARY

JERRY W. BLACKWELL, OF MINNESOTA, TO BE UNITED
STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF MIN-
NESOTA.

JOHN FRANK MURPHY, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN
DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA.

MIA ROBERTS PEREZ, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN
DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA.

KAI N. SCOTT, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE UNITED
STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT
OF PENNSYLVANIA.